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United States Marine Corps

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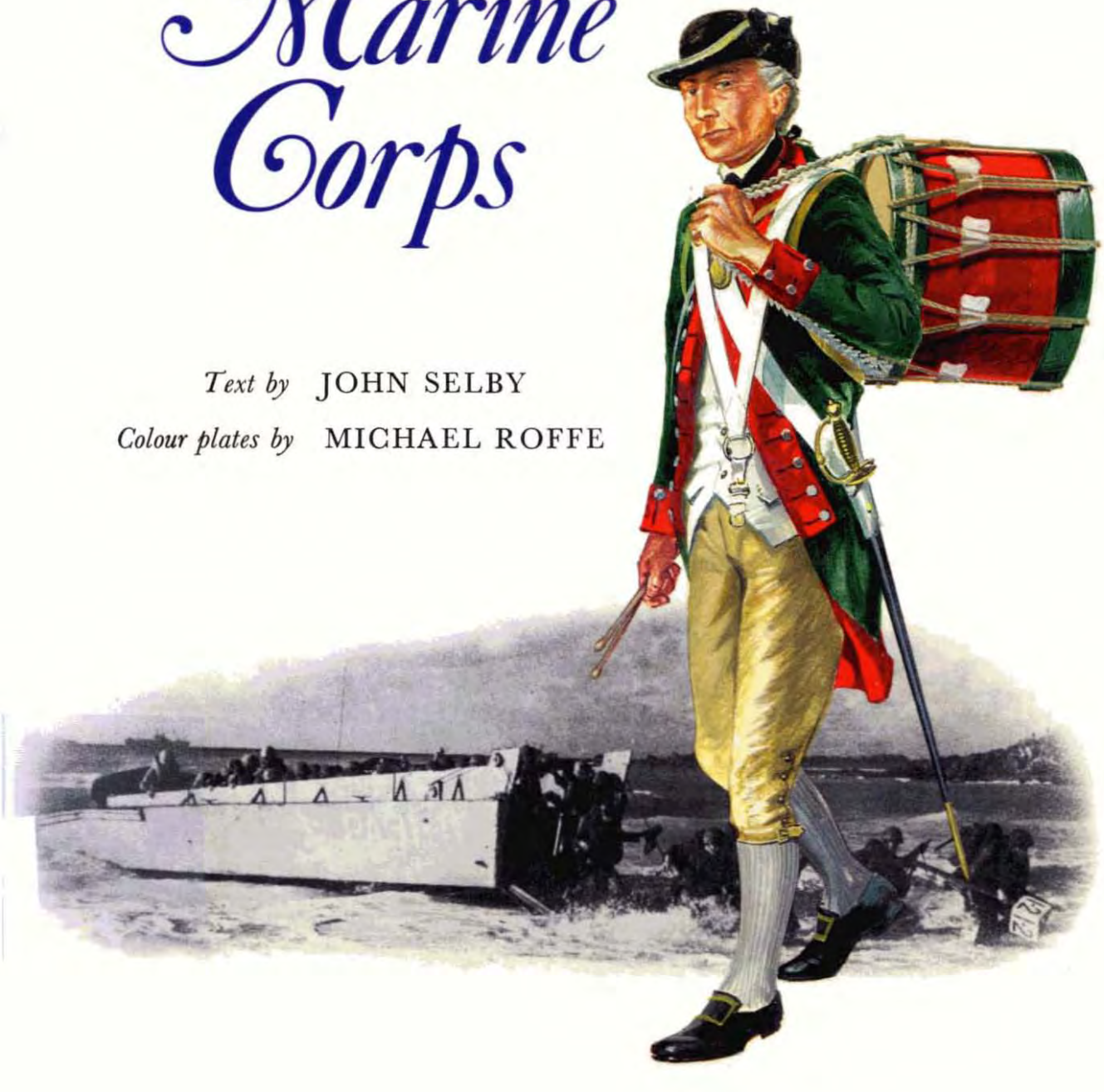

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1775-1846

On 10 November 1775 during the War of Independence the United States Marine Corps officially came into being when Congress passed a resolution resolving that 'two battalions of marines be raised to serve during the present war'. The first commander of the new corps was Samuel Nicolas the owner of Conestoga Wagon Inn; and in March 1776 he took 300 of his men in two sloops to raid the forts guarding Nassau on New Providence Island in the British Bahamas. Nicolas landed on the eastern end of the island without opposition, and sent a message to the Governor saying that if he wished to avoid bloodshed he could surrender, and Nicolas would then spare the town. The Governor ordered the garrison of Fort Montagu to fire a few rounds in token resistance and to spike their guns and retire on Fort Nassau. Nicolas occupied the evacuated fort, but as it was getting late decided to postpone the attack on Nassau until next day. The decision proved unwise, for the Governor took the opportunity of sending away to Florida during the night 154 casks of powder, the commodity which the Americans most needed. Next day the Marines occupied Fort Nassau as easily as they had its sister fort; but as reward for their efforts they had to be content with a few small brass mortars.

In 1776 Marines served on board the *Cabot* and the *Alfred* in action against the British frigate *Glasgow*, and during the engagement the first Marine officer was killed. In 1777 a detachment served with the artillery in George Washington's army, and in 1778 Marines served on board the *Rattletrap* when it cruised up the Mississippi and raided British traders' posts. In 1779 they served under John Paul Jones in the *Ranger* off Flamborough Head, and took part in raids on British soil.

As with other armies, uniform regulations described in detail the clothing necessary; but it is doubtful if many received the official dress of green cutaway coats with white facings, light-coloured breeches, woollen stockings and round black leather hats with brims turned up on the left-hand side. Certainly the redoubtable Paul Jones, when operating in the English Channel and Irish Sea, fitted his men out in red coats, having obtained a good supply from a captured British vessel carrying a stock of uniforms.

After the War of Independence the Navy and the Marines went out of existence until interference

This painting by Colonel Donald L. Dickson shows Continental Marines under Captain Samuel Nicolas storming Fort Montagu, New Providence Island of the Bahama Group on 3 March 1776, during the American Revolution.

The officer's uniform of 1820 was clearly influenced by the Napoleonic wars, and consisted of a three-cornered hat with huge cockade, blue coat with white facings, white sash, tight white trousers, and half-boots.

to American shipping by vessels of the French revolutionary government and by the Barbary pirates caused both to be reconstituted. The Marine Corps was re-formed on 11 July 1798 and was fortunate in its first commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Burrows. In 1800 he moved Marine Headquarters from Philadelphia to Washington where the Marine Barracks have remained ever since, thus becoming the oldest continuously occupied military post in the country with the sole exception of West Point. He also started the Marine Corps Band. The Marines were already responsible for the capital's security, and Burrows conceived the idea that they might as well contribute to the city's entertainment. As there were no funds to buy instruments, he asked for a contribution from every officer of the Marine Corps. Requested by their commanding officer, they had perforce to agree, so that to the accompaniment of groans the money came in, and by the time Burrows had recruited the musicians their instruments were available. On New Year's Day 1800 Burrows staged a concert for President John Adams, who was so delighted with the performance that he asked for it to be repeated, with the result that concerts by the Marine Corps Band became a regular feature of Washington life. By the time other units arrived offering competition, the Marine Band had become so firmly established that it was able to retain its status as the 'President's Own'. That it subsequently came under the direction of such a leader as John Philip Sousa indicates the standard it reached.

By March 1801 the extortions of the Barbary pirates had become so exacting that a squadron was sent to the Mediterranean to restrain them. When the Pasha of Tripoli's demand for yet a further increase in his dues was refused him, war broke out and there followed a series of indecisive encounters between the warships of either side. To break the deadlock, William Eaton, the United States Consul in Tunis, suggested that an attempt should be made to replace the Pasha. The Pasha was a usurper who had murdered one brother and exiled another to seize power, and the plan was to find the surviving brother Hamid and assist him to gain the throne. Hamid was discovered along with ninety followers in Egypt, and after some difficulty was persuaded to make the attempt. An expeditionary force was constituted consisting of Greek and Turkish mercenaries and Arab cavalry, the whole numbering with Hamid's followers some 300 men; 10 Marines under Lieutenant O'Bannon were detailed to assist. The force left Egypt in February 1805 and took seven weeks to cross the Libyan desert and reach Derna, Tripoli's second largest city. The battle began with a bombardment by American naval vessels lying off the coast. This succeeded in silencing the firing from the harbour fort, but not from the Governor's castle or from the town. Eaton therefore ordered the entire force, less Hamid's men, to attack the town, in order to drive in the skirmishers operating outside the walls and contain the fire from inside. Meanwhile,

O'Bannon and his Marines were instructed to storm the fort. This they accomplished in splendid style, raising the Stars and Stripes for the first time in that part of the world, and turning the unspiked guns against the castle. At this stage there was a general evacuation, and in their turn Hamid's men were able to storm the castle. Thus within two hours Derna was in the hands of the expeditionary force and most of its inhabitants quickly declared allegiance to Hamid.

The attacking force had only thirteen killed, including two Marines, and although Hamid did not retain his leadership for long, the success of Eaton's military venture helped the United States achieve a favourable treaty with Tripoli. As a reward for his gallantry in leading the assault on the fort, Hamid presented O'Bannon with his own curved sword, and this Mameluke sword became the pattern for swords subsequently carried by Marine officers.

In the war with Britain in 1812, detachments of a 500-strong Marine Corps served both in warships on the high seas and on the lakes. At first they were more successful at sea, where, for example, the *Constitution* destroyed the British *Guerrière* off Nova Scotia. But after several military defeats on the Great Lakes, in September 1813, Marines were on board Commodore O. H. Perry's victorious ships in the Battle of Lake Erie which gained control of the lake for the Americans. Napoleon's defeat and abdication in 1814 was a serious blow to the American cause, for it made thousands of seasoned redcoats and many more warships available for service across the Atlantic. The British strategy was to attack from Canada along the Richelieu–Lake Champlain waterway, and to divide the country by cutting off New England. Raids against New Orleans, Baltimore and Washington were included in the plan. American plans to defend Washington were very poorly organized. No defences were erected, and of the force of 10,000, mainly untrained militia under General Winder earmarked to protect the capital, only about a half could be mustered. There were, however, a few experienced fighting men consisting of seamen under Commodore Barney and a battalion of Marines under Captain Samuel Miller. The Secretary of the Navy had a look at these. He noted that 'their appearance and preparations for battle promised all that could be expected from cool intrepidity and a high state of discipline'.

The British force of 4,000 men under General Ross landed at Benedict, Maryland on 19 August 1814, and from there set out for Washington. Five days after landing, impeded only by the Maryland sun which prostrated twelve men, they reached the village of Bladensburg just outside Washington, where they came in contact with Winder's men. 'On first sight,' recounted a supercilious British officer, 'the Americans might have passed off very well for a crowd of spectators come out to view the approach of the army.'

To the west of the village of Bladensburg was the River Anacostia, and Winder's militia were drawn up on high ground on the far side with the seamen and Marines astride a road in the rear on the right flank. After delivering their Congreve rockets, Ross ordered his army to cross the river and attack the American position. At the first whoosh of the rockets, Winder's militia threw away their muskets and fled. The Marines and seamen, however, stood fast. The Commodore busied himself with his guns and Captain Miller deployed the Marines as infantry. Ross pushed on unconcernedly until his advanced guard reached the rising ground on which Barney and Miller had sited their guns and formed the Marines. Boldly the British charged. The Commodore himself checked the laying of each piece. Then at last he gave the order to one gun to fire. As he reported, 'I reserved our fire. In a few minutes the British advanced, when I ordered an 18-pounder to be fired, which completely cleared the road.' The Commodore was guilty of no exaggeration, for the British afterwards said that the seamen-gunners' initial blast of grape and canister blew an entire company off the road. As the sailors stood to their guns, a hail of musketry swept down on the advancing foe from the Marines. Twice more the British re-formed and charged; twice more they were thrown back. The last repulse was actually followed by a counter-attack by the Marines and cutlass-swinging sailors shouting, 'Board 'em! Board 'em!' But by now both the Commodore and Captain Miller had been wounded. And General Ross, having seven

times Barney's force, worked flanking columns expertly round the thin line of Marines and seamen. With more than a fifth of the Marines killed or wounded, and with a bullet through his own thigh, Commodore Barney gave orders to retire. Although the redcoats had been stopped for two hours and had suffered 249 casualties, they could not be kept from their goal. Almost every public building in Washington was put to the torch, including the White House and the Capitol. The Commandant's house was the one structure that escaped; legend has it that General Ross spared the house because it ranked as 'married quarters'.

Ignominious as the defeat at Bladensburg was, it could not overshadow the contribution made by the Navy and Marines. 'Great praise is due to Barney's men', wrote one contemporary observer. 'They fought with desperation, as did the Marine Corps.' Another said: 'The people of the flotilla under the orders of Commodore Barney and the Marines were justly applauded for their excellent conduct on this occasion. No troops could have stood better; and the fire of both artillery and musketry has been described as to the last degree severe. Commodore Barney himself, and Captain Miller of the Marines in particular, gained much additional reputation.' Meanwhile, General Ross had reported tersely, 'They have given us our only real fighting!'

Marines fought on land again in 1815 at New Orleans where the outcome was happier, They formed part of General Andrew Jackson's force defending the town and helped to drive back superior British attacking forces, and to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. Although the number of Marines who took part was not large, they fought well and were highly commended for their services both by General Jackson and by Congress.

A painting by John Clymer shows Marines manning the rigging of a ship in action at sea in 1814, and firing down on the enemy in the traditional manner. They are dressed in tailcoats with white breeches; they carry swords attached to wide white crossbelts; and the men are wearing high military-type shakos with plumes, and the officers cocked hats. The 1830s saw many changes in dress. In 1834 by order of President Jackson the first printed uniform regulations were issued, and the blue, white and scarlet uniforms of the War of 1812 were shelved for green coatees with buff facings and light grey trousers on which the officers and N.C.Os had buff stripes. This reversion to green, however, lasted only five years, for in 1839 new regulations, which lasted twenty years, made standard a blue coatee with red piping, and sky-blue trousers – white in summer. Dark blue trouser stripes edged with scarlet were worn by officers and N.C.Os. Headgear ranged from the blue cloth cap with black visor to the black shako with scarlet pompom and the field officer's cocked hat. Then, as now, the Marine Band wore scarlet coats.

Enlisted Marine in full-dress uniform, 1840 from a Huddy and Duval print. In 1841 the uniform colour was changed from green, which lasted a mere five years, to blue, and this was prescribed in various orders issued during 1839 and 1840.

War with Mexico in 1846 was the result of American expansion westward and southward against the frontiers of the southern republic, the Texas War of Independence of 1836 being a dress rehearsal. There were several operations in which the Marines took part. General Winfield Scott's march on Mexico City attracted most attention, but the campaign against California was also

important, for it gave the United States its last major territorial acquisition. In addition, the Navy waged a campaign against the coasts of the Mexican gulf.

First-Lieutenant A. H. Gillespie, originally a Marine, played an important part in the opening stages of the California operations. He was dispatched by President Polk to deliver memorized instructions to the officer commanding the Pacific Squadron and to Lieutenant J. C. Frémont who headed a scientific expedition then exploring California and Oregon. Disguised as a whisky salesman, Gillespie travelled unscathed from Vera Cruz to Mexico City though there was a revolution in progress at the time. He eventually reached the squadron successfully and gave the Commodore President Polk's instructions should a war break out; then he set out to find Frémont who was mapping the frontier between California and disputed Oregon territory. On 9 May 1846, deep in Indian country, Gillespie found his man and delivered Polk's message in the nick of time, for war was just about to break out on the Rio Grande.

On 18 May 1846, after General Zachary Taylor's Texas battles at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, the invasion of Mexico began. The first American forces to set foot on the soil of Mexico proper were Marine skirmishers in a naval force. The place was Burrita, some fifteen miles up from the mouth of the Rio Grande. This little incursion which preceded 'Old Rough-and-Ready' Taylor's crossing by about two hours was soon overshadowed by more ambitious Gulf Coast operations in which Marines played their usual role as landing forces.

The naval task was to guard General Taylor's seaborne communications in the Gulf of Mexico as he marched south from the Rio Grande. This called for advanced bases along the coast; Marines played a part in securing the necessary ports. Augmented by sailors and supported by the guns of the squadron, a force of Marines captured the port of Tampico on 14 November 1846. Next, after the main landing of General Scott's army at Vera Cruz, Commodore Matthew C. Perry, commander of the Gulf Squadron, organized a force which in concert with Army troops secured the ports of Alvarado and Tuxpan. Following the Tuxpan operation, Perry set about seizing Frontera (now Álvaro Obregón) at the mouth of the Grijalva River, and San Juan Bautista (now Villahermosa), 100 miles upriver. Frontera was seized easily enough, but the capture of the river port was a more difficult undertaking. Leaving his deep-draught ships outside the bar at the port of Frontera, Perry formed a column of steamers, gunboats and barges for the landing force, which included ten pieces of artillery and even a submarine device aboard U.S.S. *Spitfire* for underwater demolition of obstacles. On the first days the force advanced forty miles upstream without opposition, but thereafter enemy defenders were encountered in strength. Beginning with sniping from the wooded banks, Mexican fire grew heavier as the ships came to obstructions in the channel. Under cover of fire from the gunboats the obstructions were cleared, but a force had to be sent ashore to deal with the enemy batteries defending the river. All day the Marines and seamen advanced, under the support of the gunboats working upstream beside them, and captured

Marines and sailors under Captain Marston during Mexican War, 1847.

This lithograph of a contemporary painting by Navy Lieutenant W. Walke shows Marines and sailors under Commodore Perry storming ashore on the Tabasco River to capture the town of San Juan Bautista in 1847.

successive batteries as they did so. By late afternoon they reached Bautista, and drove off its 400 Mexican defenders, entered the citadel, and captured 12 guns, 600 muskets and many stores. The capture and neutralization of San Juan Bautista – the town played no further part in the war – was the last important amphibious operation of the Gulf Squadron. The whole operation had been efficiently carried out and reflected a high standard of amphibious technique as well as of mutual co-ordination between the fleet and its landing force.

Four months earlier, when General Winfield Scott's expeditionary force had landed near Vera Cruz, a Marine battalion was present with the first division to land; they helped to serve the siege-guns during the twenty-day bombardment of the city, and received Winfield Scott's thanks for 'this handsome detachment of Marines'. Marines also took part in the three-week march to Puebla, which Scott made his forward base. While he was attacking Molino del Rey on 8 September, reconnaissance showed that the key to Mexico City was Chapultepec Castle which guarded the causeways through the swamps in front of the city. General Scott's plan now was for one division to attack Chapultepec's west face while another division attacked in the south. The leading troops in each division were composed of picked storming parties, and two Marine officers, Major Levi Twiggs and Captain John G. Reynolds, led the parties in the southern division.

At daylight following a two-hour cannonade the guns fell silent for five minutes, then resumed fire. This was the signal for the assault. Under a hail of musketry fire, grape and canister from the fortress, Major Twiggs, armed with his favourite double-barrelled fowling-piece, moved forward. Close behind came Reynolds's pioneers carrying pickaxes, crowbars, and scaling-ladders much like

those to be used by Marines a century later on the slopes of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima island (see p. 24) and at the sea-wall at Inchon (see p. 29) in Korea. The rest of the Marine battalion followed them in support, and then came the division.

The storming parties were held up by fire from Mexican guns astride the causeway to the east of the castle, and Twiggs was killed while giving orders to advance again; but when the general charge was sounded, the parties at the head of both divisions managed to move forward, climb the walls and enter the castle, bayoneting any of the enemy who disputed their entry.

Meanwhile another Marine officer was making a gallant contribution to the success of the assault. Captain George H. Terrett, whose Company C was on the flank, carried the troublesome guns by the causeway and drove the enemy back towards Mexico City, breaking up as he did so a charge by some Mexican lancers. Soon afterwards near a cemetery where the causeway turned east, Terrett encountered and routed another force of over a thousand Mexicans. Short of the main gate of Mexico City the Marines were joined by a small body of infantry, and the combined force gained the gateway and were the first American troops to set foot inside.

During the darkness of the subsequent night the Mexican forces evacuated the capital, and early next morning the American southern division marched into the Grand Plaza and formed up in the shadow of the cathedral. The Marine battalion, which had sustained thirty-nine casualties in the attack, was then given the task of clearing the Palacio Nacional of thieves and vagabonds. While they were so engaged, Second-Lieutenant A. S. Nicholson cut down the Mexican colours on the top of the palace of the Montezumas. As he ran up the Stars and Stripes the troops in the plaza presented arms, and when General Winfield Scott entered the Palacio Nacional the surrounding streets were guarded by Marines.

While the Marines with Winfield Scott and with the Gulf Squadron were gaining laurels, other Marines on the Pacific coast were also making history. These included President Polk's emissary, Lieutenant A. H. Gillespie, U.S.M.C., whose earlier adventures have been described. When war broke out, Los Angeles was seized with other important centres, and Gillespie was left with a small force of sixty men to hold the city. The Southern Californians, realizing the numerical weakness of Gillespie's force, staged an attack to regain the city. Having no artillery, the ingenious Gillespie sought out some rusty old gun-barrels lying discarded in the yard of the citadel and had them put in working order. Then he set his gunner's mate to work melting down lead pipes for grapeshot, and within forty-eight hours had two guns in action against his attackers. Nevertheless the odds against him proved too great, and he was eventually forced to capitulate. Because of his staunch resistance, the Southern Californians allowed him to march out of Los Angeles with full military honours, and by courtesy of his enemies he was able to board an American naval vessel in the harbour.

Later, Gillespie made an unsuccessful attempt to retake the town; after which he was sent to relieve the siege of San Diego and there establish a base in the south for further operations against

A Marine Lieutenant and Staff Officer, 1847, from a Huddy and Duval print. The uniform at this time consisted of a dark blue coat, and light blue trousers bearing down the outside seam a dark blue stripe with scarlet piping.

A Second Lieutenant of the Federal Marines, 1859, in his colourful red and blue uniform. The influence of the two wars which had just taken place in Europe is marked by the style of the cap which is modelled after the *képi* of the victorious French soldiers.

Los Angeles. After the Marines had landed and a pitched battle had been fought, the siege of San Diego was raised, but the subsequent attempt on Los Angeles for some time made little progress.

On 5 December, after a five-month march overland from Fort Leavenworth in the Middle West, Brigadier-General Stephen W. Kearny with 100 dragoons made contact with Gillespie and his volunteers. Kearny attacked the near-by Californian forces, but the combined American force was severely handled, and in a charge by Mexican lancers Gillespie was wounded. However, a month later the force, together with men from the Pacific Squadron, defeated a body of 600 enemy south of Los Angeles. Two days later Los Angeles fell; all resistance ceased, and Gillespie proudly raised over the city the same colours he had lowered in September. The conquest of California illustrates how a numerically inferior but mobile amphibious force could dominate and eventually subjugate an immense land mass.

Until 1848 the Marine Corps standard bore only the traditional motto: 'To the Shores of Tripoli'. On the return of the Marine battalion to Washington after the conclusion of the Mexican War the people of the city presented them with a blue and gold standard which bore the motto: 'From Tripoli to the Halls of Montezuma'. These two phrases were later included in the words of the 'Marine Hymn', the melody of which derived from *Geneviève de Brabant*, the comic opera by Offenbach first presented in 1859.

1849-1918

In the years following the Mexican War Marines served in ships on the seas throughout the world. There were detachments with the East Indian Squadron which Commodore M. C. Perry took into Tokyo Bay in 1853 to open trade relations with Japan, and also when he returned there in 1854; and on both Perry's visits, Marines played a major role in all the ceremonies performed by the squadron, and were commended for their military bearing.

In 1856, while Britain was attempting to maintain trading rights for her nationals by warlike action at Canton, the United States became involved when the forts guarding the estuary leading to Canton opened fire on two successive days on boats from warships in the United States squadron, although each boat was prominently

displaying the American flag. Commodore Armstrong was not prepared to submit to such treatment without reprisal. He dispatched Commander A. H. Foote in the *Portsmouth* to attack the forts from which the firing had come. Foote landed a combined force of 300 sailors and Marines which in a four-day operation captured all five forts and dismantled their 167 guns.

In 1859 John Brown, the militant leader of the abolitionist movement, established himself at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, and attempted to incite armed revolt among the Negro slaves. With some of his followers, Brown occupied the United States Arsenal and obtained arms and ammunition for his followers. The situation was too serious for the local civil officials to handle, so the Navy Department dispatched some Marines from Washington to the scene of the disturbance to quell the reported insurrection. Brown had established himself in the engine-house of the arsenal by the time the detachment of Marines under Lieutenant Greene arrived. When ordered to surrender he refused to do so, and Greene and his men attacked the position. On gaining entrance Greene confronted Brown, but not before he had fired a shot which killed one of the Marines. Greene then struck Brown with the flat of his sword and knocked him senseless to the ground, which ended further resistance. When Brown had sufficiently recovered, Greene and his detachment marched him away as their prisoner. He was later tried and hanged for treason; though he has since become something of a martyr, the hero of the well-known song, 'John Brown's body', which, with changed words, later became the marching song of the Union Army in the Civil War.

Two years after this incident the Civil War began between the North and the South, largely over issues relating to the emancipation of the slaves. The war strategy of the North was aimed at forcing the South to surrender by establishing a naval blockade along the coast, by seizing the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia, and by dividing Southern territory by gaining control of the Mississippi. The Confederates' plan, on the other hand, was to defend their territorial integrity against invasion, to capture Washington and to force the North to recognize their independence.

During the struggle which lasted four years, the

This drawing from an 1861 edition of *Harper's Weekly* shows Marines parading outside the Washington D.C. Barracks. Note style of carrying rifles.

main task of the Marine Corps was to provide detachments on board ships; but some Marines fought on land, either in landing parties or with the Union Army; 350, for example, took part in the first main battle of the war at Bull Run in July 1861.

The people of the North clamoured for a quick march on the Southern capital to end the war. 'On to Richmond!' was their cry; and this popular pressure persuaded General Irvin McDowell to launch a premature drive to the south. McDowell led his army which included the Marines straight down the turnpike towards Centreville and Warrenton, and before reaching the latter, came up against General Beauregard's force lining the far bank of Bull Run. McDowell staged a wide right-flanking attack which drove the Confederates off Matthews Hill in the north on to Henry House Hill. It seemed as if the battle was won. Then the arrival of brigades from the Shenandoah Valley by train completely altered the situation. The first brigade was driven back along with Beauregard's men; but when Jackson's famous Virginian brigade arrived they saved the day for the Confederates, for not only did they hold off all the Union attacks on Henry House Hill, but by forming a rallying line, and then

Officers' uniforms, 1875. From left to right: Lieutenant Colonel (full dress), Captain (undress), and Second Lieutenant (fatigue). The uniforms were basically blue for all ranks, with dark blue coat and cap, and sky-blue trousers. The officers' full-dress trousers had two stripes of scarlet cloth down the outer seams, while the undress and fatigue trousers had a one-inch welt of scarlet cloth let into the outer seams.

counter-attacking, they drove McDowell's men over Stone Bridge and back along the turnpike to Washington. (It was while Jackson and his Virginians were standing fast and the others rallying on them that he, or they, were likened to a stone wall – hence Stonewall Jackson and the Stonewall Brigade.)

Towards the end of 1861 a Marine detachment took part in an amphibious expedition on the coast of South Carolina and occupied Fort Walker, and another detachment on a vessel operating in the Atlantic boarded the British ship *Trent* and took off two Confederate diplomats. On 8 March 1862 Marines were on board the vessels off Hampton Roads, which were attacked by the famous ironclad *Merrimac*. The *Merrimac*'s guns killed several sailors and Marines, and had the best of the encounter. Then the Union's ironclad *Monitor* arrived on the scene and engaged the *Merrimac* in a five-hour drawn battle. However, deprived of its base-port by the Confederate Army's evacuation, and with too much draught to retreat up the James River towards Richmond, the *Merrimac* was run aground and blown up.

During the remainder of the war Marines served at sea in the amphibious stranglehold which sea-power applied to the coasts of the Confederacy, and also on the Mississippi. In 1862 Marines served in Captain Farragut's squadron off New Orleans. After the ships had run the batteries which guarded the city along the Mississippi, Marines landed and took over the town. First ashore were Marines from the screw-ship U.S.S. *Pensacola*. Armed with two boat-howitzers they were met on the quay by a mob brandishing clubs, pistols and knives. Second-Lieutenant J. C. Harris set up his howitzers to cover the mob, formed his men as though on parade, and marched them to the near-by Mint where the Stars and Bars was hauled down and the Stars and Stripes raised. Soon afterwards the remainder of the squadron's Marines formed a battalion and landed under the command of Farragut's squadron Marine officer, Captain J. L. Broome. Broome followed the same tactics as Harris. As though unaware of the mob, he led his battalion through the narrow streets, first to the custom house, then to the city hall. At each place he left a guard. For three days Broome's men held New Orleans, until General Benjamin Butler's soldiers arrived and the Army took over.

Another important service rendered by the Navy and Marine Corps was to General Grant, for they convinced him that Vicksburg, which obstructed the 'Father of Waters', could only be reduced by attack from the south, instead of by fruitless operations against Chickasaw Bluff, Haines Bluff and in the Yazoo Swamp, like those that had consumed the winter of 1863. Farragut – deeply anxious to open up the Mississippi and simultaneously to cut off the Confederacy from the west – felt, on advice from his squadron Marine officer, Captain Broome, that the only way to take Vicksburg was from downriver. Farragut sent Broome for a confidential meeting with Grant at Milliken's Bend. Broome presented Farragut's strong views on closing off traffic from the west and opening the Mississippi. The best terrain for attacking Vicksburg, he pointed out, was from the south, an area of which Grant frankly said he had little knowledge. To Grant's demur against placing Vicksburg between his army and their base at Corinth, Broome said that

all hands should march with a week's rations and live off the country like the rebels. Besides once Grant was below Vicksburg, the Navy would support him. Within a month of his conference with Broome, Grant, who until then had been planning operations upriver, was moving against Vicksburg from the south. 'In addition to its intrinsic interest this episode is a classic example of the correct use by a naval commander of his staff Marine officer to influence military operations so as to support naval objectives' (Robert D. Heinl).

Throughout 1863 and 1864 Marines captured forts such as the one guarding Wilmington and helped to tighten the naval blockade still further until the war was won.

During the Civil War, following Dress Regulations issued in 1859, Marine uniform was virtually the same as the infantry of the Army – blue blouse, light blue trousers and French-type *képi*; in the pictures Marines on board ships are easily distinguishable from the muffin-capped sailors.

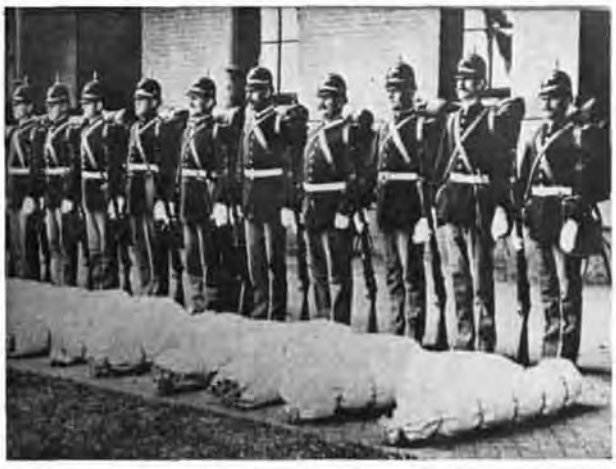
The next major conflict occurred in 1898 when war broke out with Spain. When the Cuban people revolted against their Spanish masters, the battleship *Maine* was sent to protect American business interests. On the night of 15 February, with the crew settling in their hammocks, the *Maine* was rocked by a tremendous explosion and sank in harbour carrying with her 260 members of the crew, 28 of whom were Marines. This caused

Marine uniforms of May 1875, from a water colour by Colonel Donald L. Dickson. From left to right: Private (undress), Lieutenant Colonel (full dress), Captain (mess), Second Lieutenant (fatigue), First Sergeant (full dress), Corporal (fatigue), Drum Major (full dress), and First Lieutenant (undress).

a wave of war-fever in the United States, the popular cry being, 'Remember the *Maine*! – to Hell with Spain!', and a full-scale war developed with American attacks on Spanish possessions in the Pacific and West Indies. A noteworthy Marine action in this war occurred on 10 June 1898 when a battalion of Marines from Key West were placed on board the *Panther* and established the first beachhead on Cuban soil. This was one month before Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders stormed San Juan Hill.

The Boxer uprising in China in 1900 provided the United States Marine Corps with the next opportunity for action. The Boxers were members of an anti-foreign secret society; they had given trouble at different times, principally by attacks on missionaries and their converts; they had a violent hatred for all and everything foreign; but not until 1900 did the movement assume such proportions that the Western nations found it necessary to suppress them. The Boxers started their campaign by attacking fellow Chinese who had been converted to Christianity, pillaging and burning their homes and finally resorting to murder. On 31 December 1899 they killed their first missionary. Later, in Peking, they surrounded the Roman Catholic Bishop and his flock in the cathedral and 500 Europeans in the foreign legations. The situation in Peking went rapidly from bad to worse. Boxers attacked anything of foreign origin and were particularly destructive in the engine-sheds and workshops of the railway terminus; they also started openly insulting members of the foreign legations in the streets. As the Chinese authorities appeared to be making little effort to restrain the Boxers, a demand was made by the ministers for facilities for sailors and Marines to come up from the coast to guard the legations. At first this was refused, but later a contingent was allowed to move by train to the capital. On the morning of 31 May 1900 the first men from the warships arrived at the railway station outside Peking. They consisted of 50 Americans with a Colt machine-gun, 78 British with a Nordenfeldt, 50 Italians with a one-pounder, 75 Russians, 25 Austrians, 25 French and 25 Japanese. The legations lay together on the south-east of the Imperial City within the walled compound of the Tartar City and alongside the high wide Tartar wall which separated it from the Chinese City to the south. By abandoning some of the outlying embassies it was possible to make a compact defensive position which the little force was able to hold until a more powerful column came up from the coast to relieve them.

During the fifty-five days of the siege of the legations, before the relieving column arrived, two spirited counter-attacks were carried out led by Captain John T. Myers of the United States Marine Corps. Stationed alongside the Tartar wall, he led the attacks with small mixed forces, stormed the wall and drove off the hostile Chinese from most of the American section. There was only slight resistance to the first assault, but the second developed into a spirited battle during which, the Marines having with difficulty scrambled up the wall, there followed some confused fighting in the darkness and rain, Captain Myers being wounded. This sally led by the commander of the American contingent is considered one of the most important of the siege; about thirty Chinese were killed and some rifles and bandoliers captured. As shown in the photograph, the Marines in Peking wore a field hat dented fore and aft, and some at least seem to have the traditional red stripe down their trousers – said to represent the blood shed by Marines in the Mexican War!



Marines of the 1880s showing the spiked helmet which was adopted in 1873 following Prussia's three victorious wars, and was worn up until about 1890.

Just before the beginning of the First World War an air element was introduced into the United

This painting by F. C. Yohn shows Marines of Lieutenant Colonel Huntingdon's battalion engaging the Spaniards at Guantanemo Bay in 1898. They were the first American troops to establish a beach-head on Cuban soil.

States Marine Corps, and this has ever since been an important component. In 1917 there were only six Marine pilots and about fifty men, but by 1919 the numbers had grown to hundreds of pilots and thousands of men. The Marine contribution, however, in the First World War was mainly on land. The 5th Regiment of Marines, composed of 70 officers and 2,689 enlisted men, was the first to arrive in France in July 1917. In February 1918 they were joined by the 6th Regiment and the 6th Machine-gun Battalion. Combining to form the 4th Brigade, these units, as part of the Army's 2nd Infantry Division, fought in several major operations on the Western Front, and Brigadier-General J. A. Lejeune was promoted and appointed to command the 2nd Infantry Division, the first Marine officer on record to command an army division in the field.

The 4th Marine Brigade's most famous battle was at Belleau Wood in June 1918. On 27 May General Ludendorff had launched his Chemin des Dames offensive against the Aisne heights, sliced the northern front in two, and all but reached Paris. Four days after the German stroke, as the French government prepared to flee from Paris, the 2nd Division, of which the 4th Marines were part, was on the road from its transit camp slogging eastwards towards the Marne. The divisional commander later wrote:

'Everything that a terrified peasantry would be likely to think of bringing from among their humble treasures was to be seen on that congested highway. Men, women, children hurrying to the rear; tired and worn, with stark terror on their faces. Many were walking, an occasional woman wheeled a perambulator with the baby in it. Sick people were lying exhausted beside the road. Some were driving carts piled high with their worldly goods. . . . We passed many French officers and soldiers, but all coming from

the front, . . . the motley array which characterises the rear of a beaten army.'

To another observer on the Paris road that day there was a different but equally striking sight – U.S. Marines marching towards the sound of the guns. An Army officer recalled:

'They looked fine, coming in there, tall fellows healthy and fit. They looked hard and competent. We watched you going in, through those tired little Frenchmen, and we all felt better. We knew something was going to happen.'

On the night of 5 June the Marine brigade found itself astride the Paris–Metz highway only a few kilometres north-east of the spot where General Gallieni with his Paris taxicabs had helped to turn von Kluck back in 1914. Fragments of the French Army trickled in retreat through the Marine assembly areas, often advising *les américains* to join them.

'Retreat, hell!' was the reply. 'We just got here.'

To the left of the highway beyond a rolling wheatfield and to the west of the village of Bouresches lay Belleau Wood, the Marines' objective. It was strongly held by 1,200 men of the 461st Imperial German infantry, the largest single body of combat-seasoned regular troops which the Marines had confronted since 1814 when they had attempted to defend Washington against the English.

Part of the Relief Expedition who served at Peking during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. The sudden heavy demands for uniforms created by the war emergency made it difficult to secure the necessary material. The Marines therefore wore a variety of apparel, consisting of dark blue blouse, light blue trousers with scarlet stripe for officers and NCOs, and a broad-brimmed 'campaign' or 'field' hat, which was generally creased 'fore and aft' and had a large Marine Corps emblem on the left side.

'Marine Uniform, 1900' by Colonel Donald L. Dickson. The close of the nineteenth century marked the end of the more colourful uniforms, and from then on there was a gradual but steady trend towards the practical.

The Marines' assault was led by the 5th Regiment on the left. At daybreak on 6 June they surged through the cornfields and captured a hill to the west of Belleau Wood, at the cost of 450 casualties. The second phase took the survivors of the 5th, along with the 6th Regiment who had advanced further south, not only into Belleau Wood itself but also into the neighbouring village of Bouresches. On the following days the Marines hammered their way up the long axis of the wood, and by nightfall on 12 June had broken through the third and final German defence line. After this, mopping up in Belleau Wood proceeded slowly, stubbornly and surely. From 15 to 22 June, to rest the tired and depleted Marines, the 7th Infantry took over from the 4th Marine Brigade, Colonel 'Buck' Neville of the 5th Regiment, however, keeping command in the wood. When the Marines returned to the fray, they found the front lines unchanged. On the night of 23 June, the 5th Marine Regiment made another attempt to eject the enemy, but the results were dis-

couraging. Next day, all day, the divisional artillery plastered the Germans. This did the job, and a final attack by the 5th carried the tip of the wood and enabled the commanding officer to report: 'Wood's now U.S. Marine Corps entirely!'

Other than the fact that it may have been the Battle of Belleau Wood which, in Clemenceau's words, saved Paris, there are several reasons why this bloody hard-fought action constituted a turning-point in the history of the Corps. With the exception of the war in 1812, the Marine Corps had spent most of its previous 142 years in small actions and expeditions against natives or informally trained enemies. At Belleau Wood large formations of Marines encountered professional veteran antagonists fully equipped and supported, and many Marine officers thereby learned about a new kind of war. This was important because it shaped the thinking, the spirit and the quality of the Marine Corps during the years leading up to the Second World War.

One abiding by-product of Belleau Wood was a new term in the soldier's argot: as the Marines scratched out shallow rifle pits, wherever in the forest the front lines lay, somebody called them 'foxholes'. The name caught on, a correspondent heard and reported it, and the era of the foxhole had arrived.

Another by-product was wholly unforeseen by any Marine in France. That was the implication from a dispatch of Floyd Gibbons that the Marines had won the war. Gibbons seemed almost to say so, and having been wounded himself three times in the action, what he said carried conviction. Statements such as 'I am up front and entering Belleau Wood with the U.S. Marines' impressed news-hungry folk at home, and in a different sense were enough to convince some members of other Services that the Marines were a lot of publicity hounds.

Among those who did accord the Marine Brigade unstinting praise for the fighting in Belleau Wood were two of its superiors: Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt and the French General Joseph Degoutte under whose Sixth Army the 2nd Division had gone into battle.

Roosevelt inspected the Brigade in August 1918 at Nancy, after having visited Belleau Wood. On the spot, the future President directed that Marine

Marines in the Philippines, 1901.

Corps uniform regulations should be changed to authorize Marine enlisted men to wear the Corps emblem on their collars – only officers had done so before – 'in recognition of the splendid work of the Marine Brigade'. Also, in a cable to Secretary Daniels, he said:

'Have returned to Paris from a visit to the Marine Brigade. American and French commanders are equally enthusiastic over their magnificent showing. Have also visited Belleau Wood, a most difficult position which the Marines held against picked German troops, and finally cleared.'

As for General Degoutte, in the orders of his Sixth Army for 30 June 1918 he published the following citation:

'In view of the brilliant conduct of the 4th Marine Brigade of the 2nd U.S. Division, which in a spirited fight captured Bouresches and the strong point Belleau Wood, fiercely defended by the enemy in force, the Commanding General VI Army decrees that henceforth in all official papers, Belleau Wood shall bear the name, "*Bois de la Brigade de Marine*".'

From the other side, German intelligence had its own verdict:

'The 2nd American Division must be considered a very good one, and may perhaps be reckoned storm troops. The different attacks on Belleau Wood were carried out with bravery and dash. The moral effect of our gunfire cannot seriously impede the advance of the American riflemen.'

Photographs of 'Leathernecks' on the way to take part in the above battle show them dressed like British infantrymen and wearing the same inverted vegetable-dish steel helmet. On the other

Drum Major's full dress uniform, 1912, consisting of dark blue coat, elaborately decorated with gold braid, sky-blue trousers with scarlet stripes down the outside seams, and a black astrakhan shako with red cloth top, a red cloth bag trimmed with gold, a gilt-chain chin-strap, and a red, white and blue plume of vulture feathers on the right side.

hand, photographs taken of them earlier on board ship show them in field hats with the so-called Montana four-dent (like an early British Boy Scout hat) replacing the fore and aft dent of Cuba and Peking.

During July 1918 the Marines led the American attack at Soissons and were credited with having given the impetus which cracked the enemy force, causing it to retreat. In August 1918, after receiving replacements to reinforce its depleted ranks, the 4th Brigade of Marines took an important part in the capture of St-Mihiel, a key place in the German defences.

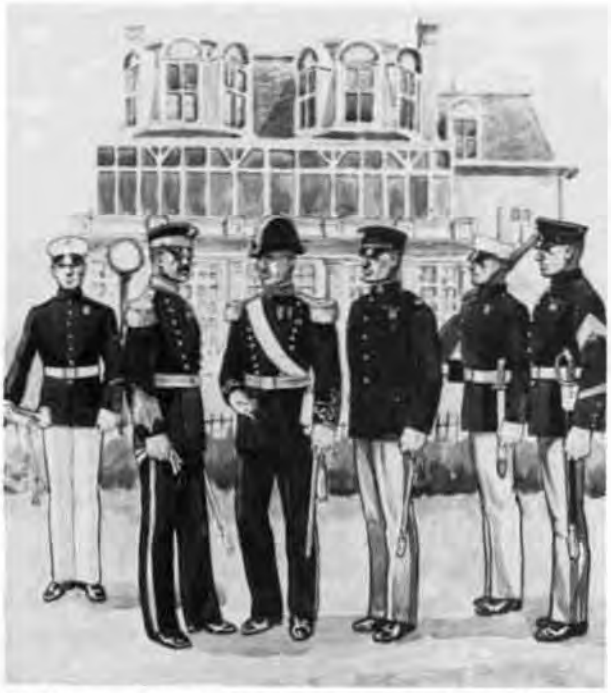
Another great Marine achievement occurred in Champagne in October 1918. When General Lejeune brought his division out of the line after the capture of St-Mihiel, he was told it was to be attached to the French Fourth Army for an attack on the Hindenburg Line with the objective Blanc Mont Ridge between Sommepy and St-Étienne. The French army commander, General Gouraud, suggested that American battalions should be detached to replace depleted French ones; but General Lejeune resisted this strongly, saying: 'If, General, you will let me keep the 2nd Division in one piece, I will guarantee to take Blanc Mont.' General Gouraud accepted this bold offer by the American General, and the final plan was for a French force to attack Essen Hill on the left, while the Marine brigade made a frontal attack on the ridge past Viper Woods, and an American infantry brigade made an angled advance on the right.

There was no prolonged artillery preparation, as experience had shown that it would only warn the enemy. Instead, at dawn on 3 October, after a sudden five-minute thunderclap from 200 guns, the attack went in. The French on the left made little headway, and a Marine company was detached to help clear machine-gun nests from their path; but the main Marine assault led by the 6th Marines and supported by French tanks was completely successful.

Blanc Mont Ridge being taken, the next task was to push on to St-Étienne. To do this the 5th Marines passed through the 6th, and then drove forward towards St-Étienne three miles away. By noon next day the 5th were within a thousand yards of St-Étienne; but then the Germans counter-attacked, probing deep into the Marines' exposed left flank. Major Hamilton swung his 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, half-left to meet the Germans, and, advancing boldly, completely without artillery support, drove them back. He then turned his men to drive forward alongside his colleagues towards St-Étienne. For the next three days the 6th, who had now come to the front again, along with the depleted 5th, fought their way forwards inch by inch. Finally on 8 October two companies of the 6th entered the town.

Heavily counter-attacked, they staunchly held on until relieved by French troops. For the Marines the Champagne battle was over. The French were delighted with their allies. In their Army Orders was published a citation relating to their achievements, and one French Marshal even went so far as to declare: 'The taking of Blanc Mont Ridge is the greatest single achievement of the Champagne campaign.'

During November 1918 the brigade, along with other American units, was in the final phase of the great Meuse–Argonne offensive, the last major battle of the war. The 2nd Infantry Division led by Marines was assigned the mission of driving a wedge-shaped salient through the enemy's strongpoint. The attack was completely successful and the success was exploited. The 4th Brigade of Marines was continuing to advance to clear pockets of enemy resistance when the news of the Armistice was announced.



'Uniforms of the Leathernecks, 1912', by Colonel Donald L. Dickson.

The Second World War

At the beginning of the war, Japan, with her hands fairly full in China, was content to be a spectator; but following Germany's early successes and the fall of France her policy changed, and in September 1940 she formed a pact with Germany and Italy. In July, Japan occupied bases in southern Indo-China. This was a clear threat to Siam, Malay and the Dutch East Indies, and produced an immediate reaction from America, Great Britain and the Netherlands who introduced a series of restrictions on Japanese trade. Japan was now faced with her moment of decision. Talks had been going on for some time with the United States at Washington. Japan wanted the United States to abandon all support for the Chinese government with whom Japan was at war, and to recognize Japan's dominant position in the Far East. For their part the Japanese were prepared to withdraw from their pact with Germany and Italy. In the Washington talks America spoke for Great Britain and Holland as well as for herself, and it was thought that the trade restrictions imposed on Japan would force her to give ground. Negotiations were still in progress when there came a terrible shock. At dawn on Sunday 7 December 1941, 350 Japanese bombers attacked without warning the United States Pacific Fleet at anchor in Pearl Harbor, the American base in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and reduced it to a shambles of crumpled sinking hulks. Seventy combat ships, including eight battleships, were at

Major's full dress uniform of 1912.

Pearl Harbor. Against them Japanese aircraft from naval aircraft carriers struck again and again through fleecy clouds, first with aerial torpedoes, then with heavy bombers and dive-bombers. The decks of the stricken ships were covered with killed and wounded men: over 3,000 were dead or missing, over 1,000 wounded. Although the American carriers were at sea and escaped, half the United States Navy was crippled and American striking power in the Pacific was virtually paralysed.

With the United States so handicapped, it seemed for a time as if the Japanese could make no false move in the East. After Pearl Harbor they overran Hong Kong, Malaya, Singapore, Burma, the Dutch East Indies, Guam in the Marianas and the Philippines, gaining rich supplies of oil, rubber, tin and bauxite, all valuable for their war effort. They then spread all over the western Pacific. In May 1942, however, part of a naval squadron escorting troopships round the eastern point of New Guinea for a landing at Port Moresby was engaged by an American carrier force. In what became known as the Battle of the Coral Sea, an air battle between carrier-borne aircraft, both sides suffered heavy damage; but the result was that the Japanese gave up the attempt to attack Port Moresby from the sea. In June 1942 the Japanese were defeated again at sea in the Pacific at the Battle of Midway. This was reported in the Japanese press as a notable victory. Even Tojo, the Prime Minister, was not given details of the serious Japanese losses of four aircraft carriers and two heavy cruisers, for the American loss of only one battleship and one destroyer. This was the real turning-point of the Pacific War. Afterwards began two great drives on Japan, one by General MacArthur's force via Guadalcanal in the Solomons, New Guinea and the Philippines, and the other by Admiral Nimitz's force starting from Pearl Harbor and proceeding by the Gilbert Islands, Marshalls, Mariannas, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In Nimitz's great island-hopping sweep across the western Pacific, the United States Marine Corps – eventually by VJ day increased in numbers to nearly 500,000 men – played a leading role; and they were to win everlasting fame, particularly in the battle for Iwo Jima.

The island of Guadalcanal was mountainous in the south, but except on the heights it was covered in jungle, and there were swamps in the lowlands near the northern river-mouths. When the Americans attacked, there were only some 2,200 Japanese on the island, but these were increased to 30,000 during the operation.

The eighty-two ships involved in the assault approached from points as widely separated as Wellington, Sydney and Pearl Harbor. The different sections met in the Fiji Islands where they carried out a landing rehearsal, and then they steamed north-west through rain squalls that

grounded all aircraft including Japanese search planes. Under a clearing sky in the dark early hours of 7 August, the *Saratoga*, the *Enterprise* and the *Wasp* with their supporting vessels moved into position south of Guadalcanal, while the 1st Marine Division under Major-General Alexander A. Vandegrift, comprising the 2nd and 5th Marines, prepared to land on Tulagi Island and at Lunga Bay on the north coast of Guadalcanal. After a dawn bombardment, the Marines began going ashore on the main island against slight opposition. By the afternoon of the next day they had occupied the unfinished airstrip of the future Henderson Field. On Tulagi and the adjacent islets on the north side of the Sound they met stiffer resistance; but these positions too were secured by the next day. In quick reaction to the Guadalcanal invasion in the south of the Solomon Islands chain, Japanese aircraft began taking off from airfields in New Britain north-west of the islands, and carried out a series of raids amongst shipping in the Sound between Tulagi and Florida Islands and Guadalcanal. Next a Japanese fleet of five heavy and two light cruisers and a destroyer steamed down the channel between the parallel islands of the Solomons, and a naval battle took place between the rival fleets. Although the Japanese fleet was turned back, none of their ships was sunk, whereas two Allied ships went to the bottom of the Sound. Many more were eventually to go down, and it acquired the unhappy name 'Ironbottom Sound' because of the number of vessels beneath its waters.

Deprived of air cover, the bulk of the amphibious force was withdrawn and only 16,000 Marines were left to retain the airfield for future use. Whereupon the Japanese poured reinforcements into the island in an attempt to liquidate the Marines guarding the airfield. The Japanese realized that to oust the Americans from Guadalcanal they would first have to recapture the airfield, and they sent in more and more reinforcements. Having concentrated, they made a drive for Henderson Field, but were bloodily repulsed. In early October the Japanese subjected the airfield to a naval bombardment, and under cover of it began to send in more troops. To try and stop this reinforcement, the Americans sent Admiral Halsey's Fifth Fleet to tackle the Japanese fleet which was covering the enemy build-up. In the naval battle that followed the *Hornet* was sunk and the *Enterprise* was badly damaged. Although the Japanese did well in the naval battle, their attack on the airfield was beaten off with heavy losses. The Japanese next increased their force on the island to 30,000; but on the same day that they were moving their troops in on the north of the island, the Americans were able to land 6,000 reinforcements in the south. The two fleets bringing the reinforcements unintentionally intermingled, and another fierce and confused naval battle took place during which the Japanese lost a battleship and two destroyers and the Americans two cruisers and two destroyers. However,

Part of the Marine brigade that served at Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1914.

although most of the American ships were damaged, the Japanese ships also suffered severely, and they were unable to undertake their planned bombardment of Henderson Field.

On the following night yet another Japanese fleet arrived on the scene. This came up with the damaged *Enterprise* which was still in the vicinity; and her bombers, and bombers from Henderson Field, were able to send one Japanese warship and six transports to the bottom. When more American vessels reached Guadalcanal the naval battle was rejuvenated. This time, however, the advantage was with the Americans, for the Japanese Admiral eventually gave up and ordered his ships away.

Following the collapse of this November attack, the Japanese went over entirely to the defensive, maintaining their garrison on Guadalcanal merely

to keep the Americans occupied while they constructed airfields in the central Solomons. Eventually they withdrew and left the island to the Americans. Thus the Guadalcanal campaign came to an end, and another famous Marine operation was over; but at a cost of 1,152 dead.

With the Gilberts secured, attention was turned on the Marshalls, and this mission was assigned to the 22nd Marines. After the seizure of the only island possessing an airstrip, the capture of the other islands was not too difficult; some not essential for bases were by-passed and assigned to Marine aviation units for neutralization.

The islands of Guam and Saipan were the main objectives for the Marianas invasion and several Marine and Army divisions were used. It was the same story of bitter resistance from every Japanese unit encountered, to be overcome only by determined American assaults. Although the casualties were less than the pre-invasion estimates of the planners, they were nevertheless high, for example over a thousand Marines died; but the capture of Saipan put Tokyo within bombing range, so the effort was considered worth while.

In mid-October 1944 General MacArthur's long-heralded return to the Philippines began when Army troops landed on the beaches of the island of Leyte. This was an invasion in force: 600 warships and 250,000 men; the U.S. Seventh and Third Fleets, and the U.S. Sixth Army. The landing was made easily enough; the Japanese were taken by surprise; they had no idea which of the many islands of the Philippines MacArthur would choose to invade. But it did not go all one way. The Japanese sent four great fleets – three from the west and one down from Japan – to destroy the U.S. fleets guarding the landing and to cut the supply lines of the U.S. troops already ashore. The Japanese attack came in three prongs, two in a pincer movement round Leyte from the west, the third was a thrust down from Japan by Admiral Ozawa's fleet. This last was to lure northwards the U.S. Third Fleet under Admiral Halsey, then guarding the U.S. Seventh Fleet which in its turn was directly supporting the landing. The Japanese decoy manœuvre from the north very nearly succeeded. The southern Japanese prong in the Surigao Strait was blunted and turned back by the battle line of the U.S. Seventh Fleet; but in northern waters things went wrong. The Japanese Admiral Kurita started to move through the Bernardino Strait, and before the naval action that followed, Halsey had gone off north to counter the Japanese fleet coming from Japan. Fighting with great gallantry, the small ships left guarding the Bernardino Strait held Kurita's massive battle-fleet until reinforcements arrived from Halsey; and then, after a desperate encounter, Kurita pulled back through the Strait and, most strangely for a Japanese admiral, slunk away. Meanwhile, Halsey had defeated Ozawa's fleet in the north and the naval battle of Leyte had been won. This gave the United States the control of the Pacific Ocean, a sea which the Japanese had come to regard as their own.

With the naval menace removed, MacArthur's

Marines in action against the rebels in the Dominican Republic, June 1916.

Marines in Mexico in 1914. This expedition required working with larger formations than the Corps had ever assembled in one place before.

advance could continue, and although it was primarily an Army–Navy operation, both Marine ground and aviation units were in action. The first Marines to enter the fight were those of V Amphibious Corps Artillery, and their mission was to furnish support with their 155 mm guns and howitzers to the Army in its drive to complete the capture of the island of Leyte. But after almost two months of fighting they were relieved, and Marine Corps ground involvement in the campaign ended.

Marine aviation began operating in the Philippines on 3 December 1944, when a Marine night-fighter squadron and a Marine aircraft group landed on Leyte airfield. Their initial task was to provide air cover for American shipping, but they broadened its scope to include attacks on Japanese troop convoys and support for further U.S. landings as MacArthur's forces captured island after island on the way to Luzon in the north. In January 1945 newly-arrived Marine air units from the 1st Aircraft Wing, which included dive-bombing squadrons, began the Army's planned invasion of Luzon; and not only were they of great help, but they were able to improve and perfect their close air-support techniques.

After the Philippines campaign was under way, and while its outcome looked promising, Admiral Nimitz withdrew Admiral Halsey's Fast Carrier Task Force which had been supporting the Leyte landings and assigned it to support the invasion, first of Iwo Jima, and then of Okinawa, islands with valuable airstrips whose possession would place American aircraft within easier bombing distance of Japan.

The overall commander for the conduct of fighting ashore was now Lieutenant-General Holland M. Smith, and for the assault on Iwo Jima, Major-General Harry Schmidt with the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions. After the Fifth Fleet's invasion of the Marianas in the summer of 1944 the Japanese had taken it for granted that the Americans would eventually try to capture Iwo Jima because it provided the best terrain for airfields in the area of the Volcano–Bonin group of islands. They therefore highly fortified the island, establishing, under General Kuribayashi, a garrison of 20,000 well-trained

The evolution of a Fleet Marine Force began in the 1920s and this photograph shows Marines wading ashore from a landing boat at Culebra, Puerto Rico, during fleet manœuvres.

troops, and getting these to construct a wide network of pillboxes, blockhouses, tunnels and trenches to facilitate the island's defence. The steep escarpments along the shore lines in the north and south and the loose ash beaches on both sides of the waist of the island also provided serious natural hazards so that its capture was a formidable undertaking.

For seventy-four consecutive days B-24s of the Seventh Air Force, operating out of the Marianas, raided Iwo Jima in preparation for the coming assault. During the same period the island was subjected to five naval bombardments. However, these attacks from air and sea achieved no important effect other than to stimulate the defenders to greater exertions in their underground burrowing. Most of the emplacements were so ingeniously concealed and their shelters so deeply buried that, when the assault came, Iwo Jima's main defences were invulnerable except to large naval guns fired at point-blank range, or by direct attack with flame-throwers and shore artillery. In fact, a really effective softening-up of the island prior to the landings was impossible with the means then available.

On D-day a final softening up was attempted by TF-58 planes and fire from the supporting battleships and cruisers, and then the men of the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions approached the shore on the southern waist of the island in 500 landing-craft, spear-headed by 68 armoured

amphibians. The shore rose steeply from the water and was composed of volcanic ash so soft that the treads of many amphibians and amtracs sank in without taking hold. Some were thrown broadside to the shore, and newly arrived craft damaged themselves on earlier wrecks, so that for a period there was chaos on the beaches. Most of the Marines, however, eventually succeeded in scrambling ashore, and then started crawling up a series of terraces towards the island's central ridge. The heavy box-barrage ahead of, and on the flanks of, the landing force produced by the naval vessels at first kept the Japanese deep in their underground shelters. But after the barrage had passed over, the defenders gradually emerged, and opened fire. As the Marines reached the first terrace they came under intense rifle and machine-gun fire from pillboxes on the central ridge, but they kept stolidly on, advancing from shell-crater to shell-crater, although their supporting tanks were slow to arrive owing to the chaos on the beaches.

The Marine right wing suffered from severe enfilade fire from the northern plateau region and remained pinned down after the centre and left had been able to fight their way forward. The centre, after putting several pillboxes out of action with flame-throwers and 75 mm guns, captured the airfield and the central ridge, and the left did even better, surging round the base of Mount Suribachi and reaching the far shore. All this the invaders accomplished under heavy fire and with no other cover than sparse vegetation and that provided by the shell-holes.

In 1929 Marines conducted extensive patrolling and ambushing in an attempt to rid Nicaragua of bandits. Here a patrol prepares to move out against Sandino's rebels.

Marines were based in China from 1929 until the outbreak of the war with Japan to protect American interests. This picture shows the Mounted Detachment, Peiping Embassy Guard, parading in the mid-1930s.

The capture of Mount Suribachi took three days of blasting out pillboxes and sealing up interconnected caves with grenades and demolition charges. After the volcano was surrounded, and opposition overcome, a patrol climbed to the summit and raised the American flag. It was a small flag and not visible throughout the island, and therefore towards noon another Marine patrol raised a second and larger flag. This second raising was witnessed by a newspaper photographer who managed to take the picture which became the most famous of all American battle photographs (see page 27). Meanwhile, the 4th Marine Division on the right, and two regiments of the 5th Marine Division, had pivoted and begun the assault of the northern plateau; the battalions that had suffered the most casualties were drawn out of the battle, and the 3rd Marine Division in reserve was brought in.

During the advance into the northern plateau region the fleets moved closer and put down a tremendous barrage on the Japanese positions, firing some 250,000 rounds, and at night they used starshell and searchlight illumination to reduce opportunities for Japanese infiltration; but though this was more effective than the preliminary bombardments, there were many Japanese strongpoints in the crevices and gullies of the plateau which had to be taken by the Marines one at a time with close-range tank support.

The expected Japanese counter-attack came in the late afternoon when twenty kamikazes and some bombers escorted by fighters appeared over

1 Marine, Continental State Marines, 1777
2 Marine, American Marines, 1782
3 Drummer, American Marines, 1779

1 Private, Summer Uniform, U.S. Marine Corps, 1803
2 Second Lieutenant, Full Dress (Winter), 1826
3 The Colonel Commandant, Full Dress, 1859

1 Private, Fatigue Dress, 1859
2 Captain, Full Dress, 1861
3 Lieutenant-Colonel, Undress, 1863

1

2

3

1 Sergeant-Major, 1875
2 Band Leader, 1875
3 Drum Major, 1875

MICHAEL ROFFE

1 Sergeant, Full Dress, 1900
2 Lance-Corporal, Boxer Rising relief party, 1900
3 Officer, 1918

MICHAEL ROFFE

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1 Officer, Field Uniform, 1928
2 Corporal, Field Uniform, 1928
3 *Fita-Fita* Guard, First Samoan Battalion, Marine Corps Reserve, 1941

1 Marine, Combat Dress, 1944–5
2 Sergeant-Major, Summer Service Uniform, 1950
3 Snare Drummer, Drum and Bugle Corps, 1954

1 Major, Winter Service 'A' Uniform, 1962
2 First Lieutenant, Blue Undress Uniform, 1962
3 First Lieutenant, White Undress Uniform, 1962

Iwo Jima and struck at the carriers of the Amphibious Support Force, to which the fleet carrier *Saratoga* was attached for night operations. The suicide planes crashed into five ships. Three were only moderately damaged, but the *Saratoga*, which was also struck by bombs, lost a large part of her flight deck. Though she was at length saved by expert fire-fighting, she had 123 killed and 192 wounded, and was out of the war for three months undergoing repairs. A kamikaze crashed into the escort carrier *Bismarck Sea* and started fires that set off her ammunition in a series of rending blasts. Abandoned, she rolled over and sank with a loss of 200 lives. Instead of the estimated four days it required a month of vicious fighting before the island of Iwo Jima was secured; but its worth was quickly proved, for before the end of the war some 2,400 B-29s, whose crews numbered about 27,000, made emergency landings on the island.

The conquest of Iwo Jima in March 1945, which cost nearly 6,000 Marine lives, was probably the greatest single achievement of the United States Marine Corps in all its long history. It won them universal acclaim which became immortalized in the words of the naval supreme commander Admiral Nimitz, who said that among the Marines who served on Iwo Jima 'uncommon valor was a common virtue'.

The Tenth Army, consisting of three Marine divisions (1st, 2nd and 6th) and three Army divisions, was used to assault Okinawa. On 23 March 1945 pre-assault strikes were made, and the next day the Navy subjected the island to an intense bombardment. While this softening-up was in progress, an infantry division seized the Kerama Islands fifteen miles to the west. These tiny islands were lightly held, for the Japanese considered them of little use to an invader; but they provided a splendid sheltered anchorage for the tenders, oilers, repair ships and ammunition ships and other auxiliaries of the service squadron so that a floating base for replenishment and light repairs could be established right in the area of operation.

The first stage consisted in some wide minesweeping attempts around the coasts of Okinawa, and this was followed by the dispatch of underwater demolition teams to reconnoitre the selected invasion beaches on the west coast, and to blow out of the water about 2,900 wooden posts that the defenders had set up as obstacles to landing-craft.

In the early hours of D-day (1 April 1945) the transports arrived off the west coast bringing 182,000 assault troops, half of them Marines from the 1st and 6th Marine Divisions. Awaiting the invaders were 100,000 defenders holding well-prepared defensive positions mainly in the south of the island. The Japanese strongholds, set in a natural citadel of steep hills and narrow ravines, were well protected by cross-fire, and had mutual artillery support covering all approaches.

After a heavy and prolonged neutralizing fire, the four divisions of the Tenth Army began going ashore. At the same time, in an attempt to draw defending forces away from the intended

Andrew J. Higgins developed the 36-foot LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle and Personnel) which could carry thirty-six combat-ready troops or a light vehicle. It was built of steel and had bow landing ramps to discharge troops and vehicles on the beach. The above shows Marines charging ashore from an LCVP.

beachhead, a demonstration group, which included the 2nd Marine Division, staged a mock landing in the south.

The landing was met with only sporadic small-arms and mortar fire, and in the course of the day 50,000 Marines and soldiers went ashore, and their advanced elements seized two airfields. By noon on the following day the invaders had thrust right across to the east coast. Then, while the infantry divisions wheeled right for an advance to the south, the 1st Marine Division secured the area opposite the beachhead, and the 6th Marine Division advanced up the long north-east axis of the island. In northern Okinawa the Marines met only scattered resistance until they entered the Motobu Peninsula. Here the enemy fought back for several days, but by 18 April the Marines had secured the whole of northern Okinawa.

Meanwhile, the infantry divisions had penetrated the outer Japanese defences in the south and had come up against the main Japanese citadel. This they attacked on 19 April, but were bloodily repulsed. Thereafter the battle remained at stalemate for several days while the guns of the American fleet and the shore artillery blasted away in vain against the enemy stronghold. The 6th Marine Division was now brought down from northern Okinawa to join in the fight in the south. Towards the end of May the Americans, closely supported by the guns of the fleet, began to outflank the enemy citadel by advancing down both coasts; and the defenders, to avoid being surrounded, withdrew to a new defensive position in the southern tip of the island.

At the same time a tremendous naval battle was in progress off the shores of the island, during which the Japanese sent in wave after wave of suicide attacks against the vessels of the Fifth Fleet. First, they attacked the outlying picket vessels, which generally had only their own guns to protect themselves. Next, they took on the bigger ships. On 7 April a kamikaze crashed into the deck of the carrier *Hancock* killing 72 men; and, by nightfall, suicide planes had damaged four more naval vessels. Kamikaze attacks continued until June, and sent 26 smaller American vessels to the bottom, and damaged many more. They also accounted for the bulk of the casualties in the fleet. On land, however, after 82 days of bloody fighting the Japanese in Okinawa were liquidated. Their general and his chief of staff acknowledged defeat by ceremonially committing suicide, and all but 11,000 of the original 100,000 defenders were killed, for a loss of 13,000 American lives, 3,430 of which were Marines.

With Okinawa in American hands, the work of the Marines in the Pacific war was over. In July an ultimatum from President Truman, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek called on Japan to surrender all her armed forces or else face 'prompt and utter destruction'. The Japanese, although in reality desperately seeking peace, appeared to ignore this

This painting by Sergeant Tom Lovell shows Marines landing under fire at Tarawa in November 1943.

This most famous of all American battle photos was taken by Joe Rosenthal: it shows the flag-raising on Mount Suribachi after the storming of Iwo Jima.

ultimatum; but an atomic bomb dropped by the Allies on Hiroshima on 6 August 1945, the Soviet entry into the war against Japan, and three days later a second bomb dropped on Nagasaki, with tremendous devastation, caused them to change their attitude. On the night of 14/15 August 1945, the Emperor Hirohito recorded his famous rescript ending the war. It read: 'We are keenly aware of the inmost feelings of all of you, Our subjects. However, it is according to the dictates of time and fate that We have resolved to pave the way for a grand peace for all generations to come by enduring the unendurable and suffering what is insufferable.'

Thus Japan surrendered and the Pacific War was won; and then as a symbolic gesture towards the United States Marine Corps which had played such a vital part, the reconstituted 4th Marines, the famous fighting regiment that had been captured in the Philippines at the beginning of the war at the time of Pearl Harbor, were given the honour of being the first major American unit to enter Japan. By this act U.S. Marines became the first foreign troops ever to occupy Japanese soil.

Korea

On Sunday 25 June 1950 a North Korean army smashed the flimsy defences of the 38th Parallel and poured into South Korea, crossing a frontier which had only political significance, being the boundary drawn up between the Russian troops and the American troops in Korea in 1945 at the end of the Second World War. It had, however, grown into an ideological boundary, an iron, or perhaps in this case a bamboo, curtain between democracy and communism. The North Koreans with their Russian-built JS IIIs and T-34 tanks could not be stopped by the weak South Korean troops, and they rolled on towards Seoul, the capital of the south. By chance the Russians in June 1950 were boycotting the Security Council of the United Nations, so that the Secretary-General was able to call an emergency meeting at which a majority supported first a resolution ordering North Korea to withdraw its armed forces, and then a recommendation asking member nations to help South Korea to repel the North Koreans and restore international security. Some twenty nations complied; but by far the greatest contribution was made by the United States of America. The final casualty figures show this beyond dispute. Of the 73,700 men killed, more than 45,000 were South Koreans; but 25,000 were Americans, and only about 3,000 were from the forces of other members of the United Nations.

The nearest American troops were four divisions occupying Japan; and 400 infantrymen from the 24th Division and a battery of artillery were, on

1 July 1950, airlifted to Pusan, the port at the south-east point of Korea. First contact with the enemy occurred at Osan, half-way between Pusan and Seoul, but the U.S. 55 mm tanks could not stop the T-34s, and the U.S. 2-inch bazookas were only effective against armour at almost point-blank range. Even after the arrival of the whole of the 24th Division the enemy were still left with tremendous advantage, and the Allies were driven back despite some hard fighting. The arrival of the 25th Division and 1st U.S. Cavalry Division brought the necessary manpower; but the roads were too choked for them to be able to reinforce the front with speed, and the North Koreans advanced sufficiently to hem in the Allies in the south-east corner around Pusan, a box with sides sixty miles long which came to be known as the Pusan Perimeter. Here, with the aid of massive air support, they were able to hold on.

Field uniform with pack, used early in World War II.

A request for Marines came on 2 July in a dispatch from General MacArthur addressed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff which read: 'Request immediate assignment Marine Regimental Combat Team and supporting Air Group for duty with this command.' As they had been for 171 years, the Marines were ready – that is, what peacetime economies had left of them. Within five days of General MacArthur's request a provisional brigade from the 5th Marines and Marine Aircraft Group 33 was formed, and a few days later they left for Korea to the parting words of the Commandant of Marines, who said: 'You boys clean this up in a couple of months, or I'll be over to see you!' The job took somewhat longer.

The Marines arrived on 2 August at Pusan where they were met by their commander, who had gone on in advance, and were given their orders. 'The Pusan Perimeter', he said, 'is like a weakened dike, and we will be used to plug holes which the enemy open.' The first engagement took place in the south-west corner of the Perimeter, where the Marines had replaced an army unit. Attacked before dawn by the North Korean 6th Division, the Marines first held the enemy assault, and then counter-attacked and drove the North Koreans back to the hills from whence they had come. Two days later, to exploit this initial success, they attacked again and drove the enemy right back to their headquarters at Chinju. After this they were sent to plug another hole, this time in the north-west corner of the Perimeter where the enemy had advanced across the Naktong River and were threatening Taegu. The Marines began their second combat on 17 August when they launched an assault on the enemy on 'No Name Ridge' to their front. They were stopped by a withering hail of machine-gun and mortar fire, but when Marine air and artillery had got their opponents' positions sighted and had opened up their supporting fire, they were able to advance again. By nightfall they had occupied the northern end of the ridge, and by the next afternoon the whole of 'No Name Ridge' was in their hands. With the Pusan Perimeter more secure in the northern Naktong area, the Marines were ordered to return to the south-west sector; but after serving as the reserve for the 25th Division, which allowed them to rest and replenish equipment, they were

War dogs with their Marine handlers on a jungle trail on Bougainville in the Northern Solomons in 1943.

moved north again, where they proceeded to give a repeat performance at the second Battle of the Naktong. During this operation in early September it was the 9th North Korean Division that fell before the Marines' savage attack. After three days of hard fighting the Marines drove the enemy back. They recaptured numerous American guns, and left the countryside 'littered with enough North Korean arms, tanks and vehicles to equip a small army'.

With the position in the Pusan Perimeter stabilized and reinforcements on the way, General MacArthur planned a landing with X Corps at Inchon on the west coast to establish a fortified area around the capital, Seoul, which might act as an anvil towards which the Eighth Army would strike like a hammer from the Pusan Perimeter. This 'hammer and anvil' operation was ideal for Marines, and X Corps was composed of the 1st Regiment, the 5th Regiment, along with the 7th Infantry Division which had fought beside the Marines at Okinawa and had been brought up to strength by adding 8,000 South Korean levies. After the operation had begun, the 1st Marine Division of X Corps was completed by the addition of the 7th Regiment of Marines.

Inchon is a small town twenty miles west of Seoul and separated from the capital by the Han River. It is protected seawards by Wolmi-Do Island and is difficult to approach except at high tide, for at low water wide mud-flats are exposed, punctuated with islets, and between tides the currents are very strong. A final difficulty was that even at high tide the port could only be entered by climbing up high quays. Fortunately the 2,200 North Korean defenders were not the best of troops, and did not much make use of the available caves and emplacements.

The plan was to subject the whole area to a heavy bombardment and afterwards on the morning tide to land a battalion of the 5th Marines with a strong tank force on Wolmi-Do Island. It was proposed then to wait till the evening tide and land the remainder of the 1st Marine Division at Inchon, when they would be able to attempt to climb the quay walls under the most favourable circumstances. While the planners were still carrying out their task, softening-up air-strikes and naval gunfire were put in progress. The Seventh Fleet planes first worked over the landing areas on Wolmi-Do; and then it was the turn of the naval guns. To lure the defenders into disclosing their positions on Wolmi-Do, three destroyers steamed close in and, after a half-hour's shooting, enticed the enemy gunners into action, with the result that some good counter-battery action could be carried out. Fifteen minutes before the start, three rocket ships let go thousands of 5-inch rockets with an awesome 'whoosh' into Wolmi-Do, and all these preparations were so effective that a Marine battalion of the Fifth led by Colonel R. D. Taplett took only twenty-five minutes to land and secure the island. During the intervening hours until the evening tide the bombardment was lifted on to the port of Inchon. Again the rocket ships discharged their weapons preliminary to the attempted landing, and again the softening-up was so effective that the invaders moved in almost unopposed. The 5th Regiment landed on the north-west beyond Wolmi-Do, now occupied by one of their own battalions, and the 1st Regiment came in on the south side. In spite of a black night and rain, their scaling ladders and cargo nets enabled the Marines to get over the sea-walls, so that, at a cost of only 22 killed

Part of a Marine brigade in Korea during the Second Battle of the Naktong, 4 September 1950.

and 174 wounded, the key town of Inchon was captured.

Two days later the 1st Marine Division was poised to move inland and attempt the capture of Seoul. In this operation the 5th Marine Regiment struck north-east towards Kimpo airfield; the 7th Marine Regiment, having crossed the Han River west of Seoul, approached the capital from the north, and the 1st Marine Regiment attacked directly down the rail and railroad to Seoul.

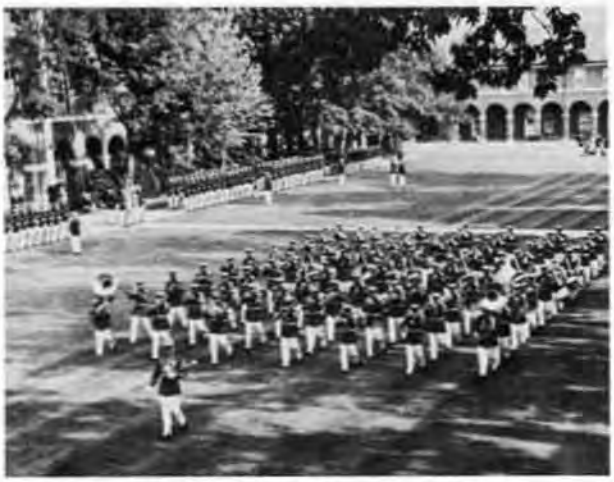
The 5th Marines were soon counter-attacked by the North Koreans. Almost before they started, six Russian tanks – or 'caviar cans' as they were called by the Perimeter veterans – and a body of infantry rushed them; but all six tanks and most of the infantry were destroyed. One T-34 was knocked out by a bazooka in the hands of a surprised corporal who knew, according to the book, that his weapon was incapable of destroying it! At the end of this spirited little action, General MacArthur and his staff drove up. They were accompanied by some newspaper correspondents, one of whom got a picture of the General against a backcloth of smoking enemy tanks and dead North Koreans. 'A typical Marine publicity stunt', commented an infantry staff officer, spitefully. By nightfall the 5th Marines were at Kimpo Airfield, and next day they secured its use for the remainder of the operation. Having crossed the Han west of Seoul against opposition by using amtracs, and supported by artillery fire and long range naval gunfire from the U.S.S. *Rochester*'s long-barrelled 8-inch guns – a thoroughly Marine way to cross a river – the regiment wheeled right and attacked the line of hills which marked the outskirts of Seoul. This position was held in strength and it took four days' hard fighting to secure it, but meanwhile the newly-arrived 7th

The Korean Presidential Unit Citation was awarded on 25 March 1953, and here the division and regimental colours of the 1st Marine Division are paraded behind the front lines for the award.

Marine Regiment had not only crossed the Han but were swinging round the north of the city to hem it in.

The 1st Marine Regiment on the direct route to Seoul found more opposition, and had to advance more slowly. On 19 September they reached Yongdung-Po on the outskirts, west of the Han River. Here the North Koreans were massed, and for the next two days the regiment fought hard with discouragingly small gains. Then one company, attacking under cover of standing rice, found an undefended street and advanced without opposition into the heart of the town. Here, under their staunch commander, they held out against all comers until their companions broke in to relieve them. After which the North Koreans evacuated Yongdung-Po. When the 1st Marines had crossed the Han, they again had the hardest fighting in the main city of Seoul; but eventually, on the night of 25 September, the enemy started to leave the capital. Immediately resistance decreased, American colours began to appear over important buildings throughout Seoul. As the colours started going up, the same sour staff officer remarked to a Marine colonel: 'Ever since that flag-raising picture on Iwo Jima got published, I'm convinced you Marines would rather carry a flag into battle than a weapon.' To which the colonel calmly replied, 'Not a bad idea! A man with a flag in his pack and the desire to run it up on an enemy position isn't likely to bug out.'

With the successful conclusion of the Inchon–Seoul operation the major elements of the North Korean Army had been broken. Caught between the rapidly advancing Eighth Army pushing northward out of the Pusan Perimeter and X Corps moving eastward from Seoul, the enemy's



The U.S. Marine Band and Drum and Bugle Corps troop the line at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in an afternoon retreat parade in the 1950s.

battle-weary forces fled towards North Korea. General MacArthur had obtained permission to conduct military operations north of the 38th Parallel, and his plan called for the Eighth Army in the west to make the main effort against Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. In conjunction with this drive, X Corps was to make a second amphibious envelopment, this time on the east coast, and then advance westward towards Pyongyang to effect a link-up with the Eighth Army. This move was designed to trap the North Korean forces which were withdrawing from the south. It was, however, not as successful as the operation at Inchon.

The 1st Marine Division sailed out of Inchon on 12 October bound for Wonsan. Before arriving there, they learned that the 1st Republic of Korea Corps had moved up the coast by land and overrun Wonsan, and was continuing to push northward. The Marines were chagrined to find when they landed that Bob Hope with his overseas army show had arrived by air ahead of them.

Owing to this unexpected development the original plan for X Corps was changed. X Corps was now ordered to advance north towards the Yalu River, with the Marine Division on the left; and the Marines' first objective was the Chosin Reservoir. Although there was a fair route to the reservoir through the Funchilin Pass from their new base at Hungnam fifty miles north of Wonsan, it was disconcerting to have such long lines of communications, and, moreover, an eighty-mile gap between them and the nearest Eighth Army troops to the west.

Their original concern was reinforced when a reconnaissance patrol brought in a Chinese prisoner who confirmed the rumours that great numbers of Chinese Communist forces were moving into Korea from Manchuria. The prisoner indicated that three Chinese divisions were already operating within the Chosin Reservoir area. On 2 November the 7th Marines in the van struck out for Chosin and the Yalu. That night when the regiment bivouacked south of Chinhung-ni they were attacked by the 124th Chinese Communist Division and a spirited encounter took place. Blowing bugles and whistles, the Chinese, with a few Russian tanks, approached in waves against the Marine position. They attempted to infiltrate and encircle the Marine strongpoints, but withering cross-fire drove them off with crippling casualties. After four days of fighting in this first United States battle with the Chinese Communists, the Marines had so severely weakened the Chinese division that it was never effective again as an organic unit. By 27 November other Allied units had received the full force of the Chinese attack and were beginning to retreat south towards the 38th Parallel; but at this stage the rest of the Marine Division led by the 7th Marines continued to advance up the long winding route through the Funchilin Pass. Having cleared the pass, they established strong defensive positions at Hagaru-ri at the southern point of the reservoir and at Koto-ri seven miles south. When these two positions had been occupied, Major-General O. P. Smith, who commanded the Division, ordered up the 5th Marines from the south, and when the 1st Marines were disengaged at Wonsan they too were moved up and formed a defensive position at Chinhung-ni south of the Funchilin Pass.

Although the situation was dormant on the X Corps front, reports were received that a force of 150,000 Chinese had crossed the Yalu and struck the Eighth Army's advanced forces over on the west. To help the Eighth Army, therefore, General MacArthur ordered General Almond commanding X Corps to strike towards the north-west from the Chosin Reservoir against the flank of the Chinese attacking the Eighth Army.

With this in view, the 5th Marines, who had now moved right up to the front, having gone through the Toktong Pass and occupied Yudam-ni, advanced still further westwards to implement their instructions to assist their comrades of the Eighth Army. On 28 November, however, before they had made much progress, the whole of the Marine Division north of the Funchilin Pass, which now included elements of the 11th Marines and the 41st Independent Commando Royal Marines, was assailed by a ten-division Chinese force sent specifically to Korea to annihilate them. At this stage General Almond visited General Smith at Hagaru-ri and ordered him to extricate his men from their difficult situation; and this task General Smith proceeded to carry out with great skill.

First he brought his advanced troops around Yudam-ni back to Hagaru-ri where his own headquarters were situated. The difficulty was to get them safely through the Toktong Pass, and to do this the 7th fell back to clear the way while the 5th retired by battalions and went through. It was a fearful experience, stumbling over the icy ground bearing stretchers laden with extra ammunition, or carrying 88 mm rounds in addition to normal loads, the wounded hobbling behind the jeeps and trucks which were allowed to carry only those too weak or hurt to stay on their feet. But by dint of heavy fighting the fourteen-mile stretch was accomplished in seventy-nine hours.

When the last elements of the 7th and 5th Marines reached Hagaru-ri, General Smith believed that 'the critical part of the operation had been completed'; but to many, at the time, it did not appear so, for Hagaru-ri was now completely surrounded, and the route had been cut to Koto-ri where the 1st Marines and a miscellany of units, including the British Commandos under Colonel Drysdale, had been established under Colonel Lewis B. Puller.

General Smith ordered Colonel Puller to clear the route from Koto-ri back to Hagaru-ri, and Colonel Drysdale was assigned the task. The Royal Marines had been attached earlier by mutual agreement, and thus for the first time since the Boxer Rising in 1900 the Marines of the two countries fought side by side. Drysdale fought his way through to Hagaru-ri, and not only cleared the route, but also provided valuable reinforcements.

While the Division regrouped at Hagaru-ri, a systematic evacuation of the many casualties was carried out by Air Force and Marine planes from the small airfield within the compound. When space permitted, Marine dead and spare equipment were sent out, and to the astonishment of X Corps commander General Almond, 500 Marine replacements were flown in. The staunch Marine leader explained this move by saying that every available Marine should help. He also insisted that only casualties could be sent out by air. When asked if he were going to retreat, General Smith made his famous retort: 'Retreat! We are coming out as a Marine Division. We are bringing out our equipment, our wounded, our dead. Retreat, hell! We're just fighting in the other direction.'

On 6 December the 7th Marines led the way out of Hagaru-ri, being the first out as they had been the first in, and then the Division under a watchful Marine air umbrella fought its way towards Koto-ri, while the 5th Marines remained at Hagaru-ri to hold off the enemy. On 7 December, when the Division was clear, the 5th put Hagaru-ri and its remaining dumps to the torch, and then continued as a rearguard to the others on their way back to Koto-ri.

When all the force of some 14,000 men was at last concentrated at Koto-ri, the passage of the last section of the difficult retreat was organized. On this, the main obstacle was the Funchilin Pass which was reported to be held by Chinese determined to prevent the 1st Marine Division from reaching Hungnam and the sea. General Smith's plan was for the 7th and 5th Marines to clear the pass from the north, while the 1st Battalion of the 1st Marines which was still holding Chinhung-ni at the south end of the pass would also attack the Chinese, so that they would be assailed from two sides at once. Lest the breakdown of any tank should block the narrow road through the pass, all the tanks were formed up at the rear of the column. Only drivers, radiomen and the wounded were allowed to ride on the trucks. Every other Marine was to march as an infantryman to provide maximum strength ready for immediate deployment.

So thorough were the preparations that when it was found that a bridge over a narrow chasm in the head of the pass had been destroyed by the enemy, bridge-sections were flown from Japan to repair it. These arrived on time and were lowered into position by helicopters. They fitted. The pass was re-opened and the 1st Marines crossed and made their way through.

There was fierce fighting as Chinese poured down on the column from both sides of the pass. A tank broke down and blocked the pass for the tanks behind it; but the rest of the Division emerged from the snowy ice-bound mountains. Tired, proud and intact, they brought with them, as General Smith had said they would, their weapons, their wounded, many of their dead – and also a number of enemy prisoners. They had marched some forty miles from Koto-ri, sleeping out on open hilltops with temperatures of fifteen degrees below zero. Then, when the column had wound down from the mountains on to the coastal plain, they crowded into the trucks and were carried off to sleep twenty to a tent in a sea of frozen mud outside Hungnam. Two days later they sailed for Pusan.

During the two and a half years which followed the Chosin Reservoir engagement, up to the Armistice, the Marines fought as part of the Eighth Army. They were assigned missions similar to the Army divisions, and their aviation elements were placed under the control of the U.S. Air Force. It was not, indeed, until 1962, when Marine units were sent to Vietnam, that the Marine Corps again undertook large-scale actions.

Vietnam

United States military assistance to South Vietnam dates back to 1954; but the major U.S. build-up in the country did not begin until 1961 when President John Kennedy authorized additional assistance, with supplies, transportation, communications and economic aid, to help the South Vietnamese government meet the growing threat of Communist aggression from the north. In the spring of 1962 Marine helicopters first began operating in the Mekong Delta in order to increase the mobility of the Vietnamese forces, and then later in the same year the Marine aviation moved north to Danang. Danang air base in Quang Nam Province is on the north-east coast, 100 miles south of the North Vietnam border. It was to remain one of the main bases of the Marines throughout the war. In 1963 the Viet Cong movement of local Communist dissidents, assisted by North Vietnam, gained control of several areas, and in 1964 Viet Cong terrorist activities increased. In February 1965, shortly after the Tet holiday, the Viet Cong attacked two U.S. military bases, injuring and killing military advisers and maintenance personnel, and as a result President Johnson not only ordered military targets in North Vietnam to be bombed, but also began to send combat troops to help the South Vietnamese directly. In March 1965 two battalions of Marines numbering 3,500 were sent to South Vietnam with a first task of putting a tight security ring round the Danang Air Base. In May 1965 the 3rd Marine Division was sent to Danang and Chu Lai fifty-five miles south-east of Danang; and this I Corps area, which eventually covered the provinces of

A Marine patrol, paddling across the Nong River, participates in a sweep against the Viet Cong in the summer of 1965.

Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Quang Tin and Quang Ngai, was the region in which the Marines operated. In August, elements of the 1st Marine Division arrived, and other units of the Division were later committed to Vietnam. By the end of 1966 there were 70,000 Marines in Vietnam; by March 1968 more still had arrived including the 27th Marines; but after the inauguration of President Nixon in 1969, and his ensuing policy of bringing the troops home, 18,000 Marines were withdrawn.

The task of the Marines in Vietnam was threefold: to guard the air bases, to operate with South Vietnam forces against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese, and to take part in civic action, such as distributing food, clothing and soap, giving medical and dental aid, and building homes for the people living in the villages of I Corps area.

During the 1965–7 period when Major-General Lewis W. Walt was commanding III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF), a number of important operations were carried out. In August 1965 reports came in that there was a concentration of some 2,000 Viet Cong fifteen miles south of the Chu Lai airstrip, and a three-pronged attack was made on them by the 3rd and 4th Marines. This included an assault in L.V.T.s across a river from the north, a helicopter-borne assault from the west, and an amphibious landing on the east. It was a model little Marine action and completely successful; after a period of hard fighting when the two sides came to grips, not only was the attack against Chu Lai frustrated but 700 Viet Cong were killed.

In 1967 the tempo of battle intensified, and Marines at Khé-Sanh near the Laos border and only twenty miles from North Vietnam had to fight off determined attempts to invade. Later in the same year, on a front stretching from Khé-Sanh across to the coast bordering the South China Sea, Marines and South Vietnamese successfully held back 35,000 North Vietnamese invaders.

At the end of 1967 Walt was replaced by

Lieutenant-General Robert E. Cushman, Jr, and under his command the Marines took part in two most important engagements, the first at Khé-Sanh and the second at Hué. In January 1968, 20,000 enemy attacked the 26th Marines who were guarding Khé-Sanh Base in a chain of mountain outposts just south of the demilitarized zone which now separated North and South Vietnam. The Marines were subjected to very heavy artillery fire, but gave as good as they got; and they were able to hold out until a series of intensive air-strikes inflicted such heavy casualties

During Operation Nevada in April 1966 Marines helped evacuate Vietnamese civilians from a combat area south of Chu Lai. Here they are helping them into a helicopter.

on the enemy that their main assault was never able to get started. In April the siege was lifted and overland reinforcements were able to reach the area. Meanwhile, further south, the Viet Cong had overrun several military installations and towns including Hué, the ancient capital, which they still held, though they had been quickly driven out of most of the others. Battalions from the 1st and 5th Marine Regiments were assigned the task of clearing the citadel and the area on the north bank of the Perfume River. Handicapped by large numbers of civilians in the battle area the Marines could not use their artillery and had to slug it out in house-to-house combat. They killed 1,200 Viet Cong in the surrounds, but found the battalions in the citadel well dug-in and difficult to dislodge. Finally by using tanks the Marines were able to approach the south wall, and then by means of an assault from three directions in co-ordination with Army and South Vietnamese forces the strongpoint was overwhelmed. The Viet Cong flag which had flown over the Imperial fortress for twenty-four days was ripped down and the flag of the Republic of South Vietnam was raised in its place. The Khé-Sanh and Hué operations were part of the great 1968 Tet enemy offensive. By attacking and capturing key points they hoped to achieve the collapse of the South Vietnamese government as well as of its armed forces, and bring about a general uprising of the people in support of the Communists. Its failure may be said to mark a turning-point in the war, for the attacks were beaten back and the general uprising did not occur. Instead, the people's attitude solidified against the Communists because of their indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

A valuable contribution by the Marines in Vietnam has been in the form of aid to civilians. Besides distributing food and giving medical help they also take part in combined action programmes with the South Vietnamese. In 1967 this scheme developed considerably, and by the end of the year there were seventy-nine combined action platoons organized into fourteen companies with headquarters in Danang, Chu Lai and Phu Bai. Fifty-nine villages were protected by the platoons whose missions were not only to undertake 'civic action' projects like building huts and improving living conditions, but also to train villagers so that they could form a home guard to defend themselves. At first, this denial of enemy access was a joint operation. It proved most successful; during the year 4,000 ambushes and patrols were carried out, 456 terrorists were killed and 25 captured. Furthermore, under the 'Operation Returnee Project' some of the terrorists were persuaded to leave their organizations. These renegades provided invaluable services to the 1st Marine Division by pointing out the hiding-places, supply points and ambush sites of their former colleagues in the Viet Cong.

Richard M. Nixon was inaugurated as President of the United States on 20 January 1969. During the previous campaign year he had indicated that if elected he would make every effort to end the war in Vietnam with an honourable settlement, and bring the troops home as soon as possible.

From January to June 1969, the combat activity in South Vietnam alternated between

The colour guard of the Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., present the Battle Colour of the Marine Corps. This flies streamers for every campaign in which Marines have participated and for every award Marine units have won. The motto of the Corps is '*Semper Fidelis*'—'Always Faithful'.

periods of intense action and lulls in the fighting. At the beginning of the year there were over 500,000 U.S. troops in the country, but efforts were soon made to turn over more of the fighting to the South Vietnamese so that there could be a start on the withdrawal of American forces. The Marines, however, at this stage were as involved as ever, conducting both large operations and patrols and ambushes. They were also still heavily involved in combined-action platoon work. The number of such platoons in the Marine area had increased to 100, and they continued to carry out building projects and to protect the villages, as well as giving medical aid and providing education facilities on a very wide scale.

President Nixon, in a summit meeting on Midway Island with South Vietnamese President Thieu on 8 June 1969, announced plans for the first troop withdrawal from Vietnam. The plan called for 25,000 U.S. fighting men to leave, and it began to be implemented a month later when a communiqué from Saigon announced: 'The first battalion left Vietnam from Tan Son Nhut air base this morning. . . . It is the first unit of the 25,000 that will be redeployed from Vietnam.' In July elements of the 9th Marine Regiment began redeployment from Vietnam to Okinawa. In a news report on 17 July the *Washington Post* stated:

> 'The 8,000-man Ninth Regimental Landing Team of the Third Marine Division is being transferred to Okinawa as a unit, and a 400-man Tactical fighter squadron from the First Marine Air Wing is being sent to Iwakuni airfield in Japan.
>
> 'To maintain the combat readiness of both units in case of emergency, the Marines are keeping their personnel together and avoiding major transfers in or out of either organization, except for some men who have asked to stay in Vietnam and are going to other units.'

In accordance with President Nixon's strategy of turning more of the conduct of the war over to the South Vietnamese, the reduction continued throughout the year. On 16 September the President announced that 35,000 additional American troops would be withdrawn by the middle of December. This number included the remainder of the 3rd Marine Division and elements of the 1st Wing – over 18,000 Marines in all. The reduction of III MAF in Vietnam had repercussions also on Marine forces nearer home. On 16 October the 5th Marine Division, reborn in 1966 to meet the Vietnam crisis, was disbanded. Two months later, on 15 December, the President declared in a television and radio broadcast to the American people that another 50,000 American troops would leave Vietnam by April 1970.

Although the American presence in Vietnam has been reduced, and the Paris peace talks continue, the final outcome of the war has yet to be decided. 12,000 Marines alone have so far been killed in Vietnam, so a high price has been paid. It may, however, be said truly that, as in the past, the United States Marine Corps has performed its duty to Congress and the American people.

Semper Fidelis

The Plates

A1 Marine, Continental State Marines, 1777
There is no source of undeniable authenticity for the very first uniform worn by the United States Marines. It appears that early Marine uniforms were generally green with white facings, but could vary throughout the country. Breeches were generally white, though they would soon turn the colour shown after wear; waistcoat white; gaiters and garters black; buttons of silver with a foul anchor design. The appearance of this Pennsylvanian State Marine is very much the same as a Light Infantryman or Jäger of the period. The uniform, while presenting a reasonably smart appearance, was not altogether unpractical, except, of course, that the hair is worn powdered and in a queue or club.

A2 Marine, American Marines, 1782
The brim of the three-cornered hat has been cut down, bound with tape and turned up on one side. Red facings have replaced the white ones as worn initially, and light-coloured cloth breeches are worn by this American Marine in place of white. The reason for these changes was probably that white was found to lose its good appearance so quickly.

A3 Drummer, American Marines, 1779
Although a Marine Corps Band was not established until 1798, drummers and fifers were in existence in the Corps in its very early days. The drummer's uniform is much the same as that of the enlisted man, except that he wears a white buff drum-carrier, and carries a sword in place of a bayonet.

B1 Private, Summer Uniform, U.S. Marine Corps 1803
The colour of the Marine uniform was changed to blue in 1797, a year before the United States Marine Corps, as it is known today, came into existence. Over the next few years, minor modifications were made to the uniform until it was as represented here. This Marine wears a plain blue short coat edged with red, red cuffs, red vest, and white linen trousers. He wears red-edged shoulder-straps and wings – an ornamental cloth shoulder-piece extending out over the sleeve. His head-dress is described as 'a common woollen hat trimmed with yellow, turned up on the left side with a leather cockade'. He also wears a shirt with ruffles and a black leather stock. In winter, blue woollen overalls with red welts on the outer seams were issued to all men.

Drummers of this period had red coats with blue collars, cuffs, shoulder-straps and wings, all piped with yellow. N.C.O.s wore much the same uniform as privates, though of somewhat better quality, with the addition of silk epaulettes, one for a corporal, two for a sergeant and feather plumes on their hats.

B2 Second Lieutenant, Full Dress (Winter), 1826
By an order of 1821, lieutenants in the Corps wore a single-breasted blue coatee, with a single row of buttons down the front, liberally ornamented with gold lace to form broad 'V's across the chest, and a scarlet collar. This uniform was in use until 1833. The head-dress was described as a 'beaver cap with fan front' and bore an eighteen-inch red plume. A black leather stock is still in use, and yellow buckskin gloves were worn. In the summer the blue pantaloons were exchanged for white.

B3 The Colonel Commandant, Full Dress, 1859
The uniform introduced in this year remained in use throughout the period of the Civil War. This officer's head-dress, a *chapeau*, bore a plume of yellow swan feathers; the plume for field officers was of red cock or vulture feathers. The commandant's gold epaulettes were ornamented with a silver bugle and an 'M' device within a crescent; a silver star on the strap, and a fringe three and a half inches long.

C1 Private, Fatigue Dress, 1859
The cap device is a yellow metal bugle with a

white metal 'M' resting on a piece of red leather within the ring of the bugle.

In undress all enlisted men wore the dark blue, single-breasted, frock with seven buttons, as shown here. A red welt was inserted in the seam where the bottom of the stand-up collar met with the frock.

C2 Captain, Full Dress, 1861
At this period the Corps evidently modelled its uniform on the French pattern. The captain's epaulettes were much the same as the commandant's of the same date, except that the bullion fringe was smaller, and the strap was ornamented with one silver bar. Although unseen here, his coat-tails were adorned with two rows of scarlet piping, each of which bore three gold buttons. His white belt is worn over a scarlet sash with the tassels hanging from the left hip. The cap device is a United States shield with a half-wreath, a bugle and the letter 'M' superimposed, the letter within the ring of the bugle; for officers it was of gilt.

C3 Lieutenant-Colonel, Undress, 1863
Over his frock-coat this officer wears the dark blue overcoat prescribed for officers. This was lined with scarlet, and black silk braid designs on the cuff denoted the wearer's rank. This overcoat has a detachable cape, which was of the same colour as the coat, but lined black.

D1 Sergeant-Major, 1875
The coat has become much shorter since 1859, and the *képi* lower, although the French influence still persists. The chevrons remain the same size as those of the 1859 regulations. The red welt down the trouser seams was worn by sergeants as well as sergeant-majors. The anchor, eagle and globe device, which is the emblem of the corps today, made its first appearance in 1869 as a cap badge. The stripe or 'hash' mark above the cuff, was awarded to all enlisted men who had served, honourably, an enlistment in any of the United States' armed services. This is the first view in this book of the distinctive N.C.O. rank chevrons introduced in 1859: three bars and an arc for a sergeant-major, three bars and a tie for a quartermaster-sergeant, three bars and a tie with a star in the centre for a drum major, three bars and a lozenge for a first sergeant, three bars for a sergeant, and two for a corporal, all in yellow silk lace edged with scarlet.

D2 Band Leader, 1875
In full dress musicians wore a coat of the same pattern as that of enlisted men, but it was made of scarlet cloth with white piping.

D3 Drum Major, 1875
While the rest of the musicians had a red pompom in their *képis* like those of the sergeant-majors, the drum majors wore a shako with a red, white and blue plume of vulture feathers. This shako of astrakhan had a red cloth top, over which was placed a red cloth bag trimmed with gold, and a gilt chain and gilt chin-strap. The coat was the same cut as those of the musicians, but ornamented with elaborate braiding across the chest.

E1 Sergeant, Full Dress, 1900
In 1880 an order prescribed the wearing of the white cork helmets covered with white duck for summer dress. These helmets had a brass spike on top, following the Prussian influence, and a fancy brass chin-strap. The badge on the front of the helmet bore the Marine Corps emblem in dull bronze.

E2 Lance-Corporal, Boxer Rising relief party, 1900
This was the uniform, as worn during the Boxer Rising, on the expedition to relieve the Peking legations. A variety of apparel was worn at this time owing to difficulties in securing prescribed uniform materials. Under regulations of 1892, enlisted men wore a dark blue blouse, light blue trousers and a broad-brimmed campaign or field hat. This latter was usually creased 'fore and aft' and had the Corps emblem on the left side. High canvas leggings were sometimes worn. The photo upon which this painting is based shows only the N.C.O.s with the stripe down the trouser seam.

E3 Officer, 1918
In January 1918 all Marines serving with the American Expeditionary Force in France were required to change their traditional Marine green uniforms for Army olive. The field hat was replaced by the shallow, steel trench helmet, and the association with British troops led to the

wearing of the Sam Browne belt for officers in lieu of the leather sword or waist-belt.

F1 Officer, Field Uniform, 1928
He is armed with a ·45 automatic pistol, probably a Colt. The pouch on the left of his belt holds two ammunition clips. His map-case is slung over his right shoulder on a web strap. Note the field-glasses, without which no officer is properly equipped for combat.

F2 Corporal, Field Uniform, 1928
The corporal's field uniform differs little from that of the officer's. He wears Sam Browne equipment and is armed with a ·45 calibre Thompson sub-machine gun. The N.C.O. chevrons have shrunk from the great 'seam to seam' size in 1917 to the size they are today.

F3 Fita-Fita Guard, First Samoan Battalion, Marine Corps Reserve, 1941
Fita-Fita means courageous. This uniform consists of a red turban, a white T-shirt and white skirt (*lava-lava*) ornamented with four blue stripes. Rating badges were the same as those of the regulars, and were worn on the lower left front of the *lava-lava*. Trained by Marine N.C.O.s, the *Fita-Fita* were enlisted as landsmen in the Naval Reserve. This guard is armed with the Garand rifle.

G1 Marine, Combat Dress, 1944–5
A typical Marine of the 1943–5 'island-hopping' Campaign. A steel helmet of the familiar design, which replaced the British pattern in 1942, is a cloth cover printed with a camouflage design. A light tropical-weight twill shirt and trousers are worn, with tight-lacing combat boots. Many Marines discarded the webbing gaiters which were still issued, letting the trousers hang loose or tucking them into the boots.

The webbing equipment is of conventional design; grenades were often carried clipped into the D-rings of the suspenders. The only insignia worn in action would be rank chevrons on the sleeves, sometimes repeated on the helmet in stencilled form. He carries an excellent semi-automatic M.1 ·30 calibre carbine, which was widely used, particularly as an officer's and junior leader's weapon in place of the ·45 calibre automatic pistol. Spare ammunition was often carried in pouches clipped to the butt of the gun itself.

G2 Sergeant-Major, Summer Service Uniform, 1950
The summer service uniform for enlisted men consisted of a khaki shirt, tie and trousers, and was worn with a garrison cap with dull-finished bronze ornaments.

G3 Snare Drummer, Drum and Bugle Corps, 1954
This drummer is from the Drum and Bugle Corps of the Marine Barracks Detachment, 8th and 1st Street, Washington D.C. The present-day Marine Band uniform is the most colourful of all American military uniforms. This snare drummer is wearing the ordinary blue undress uniform as worn by other Marines. In full dress the coat would be scarlet, trimmed with white and ornamented with black braid.

H1 Major, Winter Service 'A' Uniform, 1962
A single-breasted semi-form-fitting, or bellows-back coat is worn, with a roll collar and four patch pockets. The bronze buttons and ornaments have a dull finish. The uniform is officially described as green, and the shirt and tie as khaki, but khaki as worn in the British service is nearer the colour of the coat than the shirt.

H2 First Lieutenant, Blue Undress Uniform, 1962
This uniform is worn by Marine officers both for dress and undress. The pointed cuffs are known as the traditional 'Marine cuff', and are quite different from the more elaborate Marine cuff as worn on the mess dress of some British infantry regiments. This blue uniform has changed little since before the Second World War, except that the blue cloth belt has replaced the Sam Browne. Since the U.S.M.C. has reverted to wearing swords, it seems a pity that it has not restored the Sam Browne, the best sword-belt yet devised.

H3 First Lieutenant, White Undress Uniform, 1962
An entirely snow-white uniform: coat, with standing collar, trousers, white hose and shoes, and white dress cap. The cut and ornamentation is exactly the same as that of the blue dress coat.

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